

and punctuality of trains. In addition to these works the construction of double-line dedicated freight corridor (DFC) between Mughalsarai-Allahabad-Khurja will remove the bottlenecks and ease line capacity on the eastern corridor.

Further, Railways have initiated various measures such as replacement of conventional coaches by LHB (Linke Hofmann Busch) coaches having higher speeds, replacement of conventional passenger trains by MEMU (Main Line Electrical Multiple Unit) trains on the Ghaziabad – Mughalsarai route.

Besides, to give impetus to punctual running, Railways takes periodic measures to launch Punctuality drives, sensitise staff involved in train operations, improve asset reliability by taking pre-emptive maintenance, rectify asset failures in the shortest possible time and have better co-ordination with State Governments and Civil authorities to deal with law & order problems effectively.

Installation of new toilets in trains

1593. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are flooded with complaints about dirty toilets in train coaches and have planned to fit swanky toilets in 66 premium trains in the next four months aiming at improving passenger experience, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Railways have been struggling for a long time to provide clean toilets in train coaches; and

(c) whether in a bid to make train journey more pleasant, Railways have come out with two designs for new toilets with luxury finish, on par with personal toilets in big hotels, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Railways are doing cleaning of coaches including toilets in trains at both ends. On Board Housekeeping Service (OBHS) is provided in about 900 trains. Cleaning of toilets of nominated passing trains is also done at designated Clean Train Stations enroute.

However, a few complaints are received regarding cleaning of toilets in train coaches. Efforts are being made to improve cleaning. To meet cleanliness requirement on demand during course of journey, 'Clean My Coach' service is provided in nearly 880 important Superfast/Mail/Express long distance trains having On Board Housekeeping Service.

No decision has been taken by the Ministry of Railways to fit swanky toilets in 66 premium trains in the next four months. However, it has been decided to carry

out the work of upgradation of coach interiors and toilets in the identified coaches that have a certain balance residual life, in a phased manner depending upon the availability of capacities and funds.

(c) In order to finalize the scheme of upgradation of coach interiors and toilets, various steps have been taken by the Indian Railways. No decision has been taken with regard to proliferation of any particular design of new toilet.

Establishment of railway safety authority

1594. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is taking steps to improve the security and safety of the passengers, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that as a part of this mission, the Ministry is contemplating establishment of a separate authority for this purpose in the name of 'Railway Safety Authority'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Policing on Railways being a State subject, prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP)/ District Police. However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of the GRP by providing better protection and security of passengers in Railways. In addition, Railways is taking steps to improve safety of passengers by way of escorting of trains, providing access control at major stations, assisting passengers in distress through Security Helpline number 182, exercising surveillance at about 344 railway stations through close circuit television cameras etc. Regular coordination is also being made with the State Police/GRP authorities at all levels to improve security in Railways.

Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis including upgradation of technology to aid safe running of trains. These include replacement of over-aged assets, elimination of unmanned level crossing, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signaling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training of officials and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Safety devices/systems used to