

(a) whether Railways have been cancelling the projects in West Bengal which were sanctioned during the period from May, 2009 to May, 2011 when present Chief Minister of West Bengal was Railway Minister; and

(b) if so, the details of the projects along with the reasons for their cancellation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir. However, pace of execution of new line Railway projects sanctioned during 2009-11 has been affected due to issues of land acquisition.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Basic amenities in trains**

†2546. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been no improvement in the basic amenities provided in the trains despite hiking the fare by more than double in the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and who are responsible for the same; and

(c) if not, the details of amenities promised to be added in trains by Government and the reasons for not implementing the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir. Lot of improvements have taken place in the last three years in the amenities provided in the trains. Further, there has been no increase in passenger fares in the last three years since 25.06.2014. However, the minimum chargeable passenger fare for Second Class Non-suburban services has been increased from ₹ 5 to ₹ 10 to bring it at par with the rate of platform tickets from 22.11.2015.

Further, for new train services, the improved features/amenities of coaches are the factors which are taken into account for fixation of fare structures.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Improvements in passenger amenities in train coaches are a continual endeavor of the Indian Railways (IR).

(1) Some of the policy decisions taken in this regard are:—

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (i) Provision of dustbins in Non-AC coaches.
  - (ii) Provision of mugs with chain in Non-AC coaches.
  - (iii) Provision of Health Faucets in AC as well as Non-AC Sleeper class coaches.
  - (iv) OBHS has been made functional in 975 pair of trains of Indian Railways.
  - (v) Clean My Coach/Coach Mitra is functional in about 950 pair of trains.
  - (vi) 58 in-house mechanised laundries have been made functional and with these there is perceptible improvement in the quality of linen provided in trains.
- (2) Indian Railway is improving the interior of the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) design coaches. New interiors with more pleasing colours, aesthetically designed fittings, panelling, improved toilets, etc. are being provided in the existing coaches by refurbishing them during Mid Life Rehabilitation (MLR). Work in 700 such Model rake coaches is being progressively carried out. Out of these, more than 100 Model rake coaches have already been turned out.
  - (3) Various premium services like Humsafar, Tejas, Antyodaya and coaches like Deen Dayalu and Anubhuti, which have improved passenger amenities, have also been introduced in service.
  - (4) Indian Railway has launched Project Swarn with the objective of significantly improving the passenger experience. In total, 14 Rajdhani and 15 Shatabdi trains will be covered.
  - (5) For the assistance of visually impaired travellers, Integrated Braille signage, *i.e.* signage superimposed with Braille scripts, are being provided in the newly manufactured coaches of Indian Railway. Retrofitment of the same in existing coaches has also been taken up in a phased manner.
  - (6) All stations and passenger carrying trains are planned to be provided with CCTV based surveillance system and Wi-Fi facility.
  - (7) Railway is providing 18 nos. of mobile charging points in all class of passenger coaches including general class coaches in phased manner. So far, all AC coaches have been provided with mobile charging points and 11452 sleeper coaches out of 16918 coaches and 10554 general coaches out of 17237 have been provided with 18 nos. of mobile charging points.
  - (8) Indian Railways has been providing energy efficient LED lights to improve illumination level in coaches. So far, 5747 coaches have been provided with energy efficient LED lights.