

More trains with new generation coaches in NER

*253. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that North East Frontier Railway (NFR) is in the process of providing more trains with new generation coaches;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with names of the trains which would be provided with these coaches and the cost thereof; and

(c) the extent to which these coaches would provide safety and comfort to the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The passenger coaches plying over Indian Railways have been designed with the necessary safety features considering the operating conditions over Indian Railways. However, with a view to providing safer and more comfortable journey to passengers, Indian Railways have decided to proliferate new generation coaches, namely, Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches, which are technologically superior, safer and have better riding and aesthetics as compared to conventional Integral Coach Factory (ICF) coaches. LHB coaches have higher carrying capacity, higher speed potential, and increased codal life as compared to ICF coaches. LHB coaches also have better safety features than ICF coaches because of a superior design that reduces the chances of derailment and reduces the possibility of grievous injury or death in case of accidents. The Production Units of Indian Railways, from the year 2018-19 onwards, are producing only LHB coaches. Replacement of trains operating with conventional coaches into Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches is being done in a phased manner. Presently, eighteen pairs of trains, owned by Northeast Frontier Railway, are being operated with modern LHB coaches. The details are as under:—

1. 12041/42 Howrah-New Jalpaiguri Shatabdi Express
2. 12085/86 Dibrugarh-Guwahati Shatabdi Express
3. 12087/88 Guwahati-Naharlagun Shatabdi Express
4. 12503/04 Agartala-Bangaluru Cantt. Humsafar Express
5. 12519/20 Kamakhya-Mumbai (Lokmanya Tilak Terminus) AC Express
6. 12523/24 New Jalpaiguri-New Delhi Express

7. 12551/52 Kamakhya-Yesvantpur AC Express
8. 15619/20 Kamakhya-Gaya Express
9. 15621/22 Kamakhya-Anand Vihar (T) Express
10. 15623/24 Kamakhya-Bhagat Ki Kothi Express
11. 15655/56 Kamakhya-Katra Express
12. 15667/68 Kamakhya-Gandhidham Express
13. 15705/06 Katihar-Delhi Humsafar Express
14. 20501/02 Agartala-Anand Vihar (T) Rajdhani Express
15. 20503/04 New Delhi-Dibrugarh Town Rajdhani Express *via* Muzaffarpur Jn.
16. 20505/06 New Delhi-Dibrugarh Town Rajdhani Express
17. 22501/02 New Tinsukia-Bengaluru Express
18. 22511/12 Kamakhya-Lokmanya Tilak Karmabhoomi Express

The average unit cost of various types of LHB coaches is as under:—

Sl. No.	Coach type	Coach Code	Unit cost in ₹ Lakh			
			ICF*	RCF#	MCF @	Average cost
1.	AC-III Tier	LWACCN	231.22	256.90	236.44	241.52
2.	AC-II Tier	LWACCW	211.1	249.94	244.19	235.08
3.	Sleeper	LWSCN	174.32	179.04	179.74	177.70
4.	First AC	LWFAC	-	251.65	-	251.65
5.	General Class	LS DD/LS	173.62	182.57	177.19	177.79
6.	Chair Car	LWSCZAC	-	247.59	-	247.59
7.	Executive Chair Car	LWFCZAC	-	246.20	-	246.20
8.	Pantry Car	LWCBAC	-	241.24	-	241.24
9.	Power Car	LWLRRM	321.28	322.93	-	322.11

* Integral Coach Factory, Chennai.

Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala.

@ Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Sir, the reply is very exhaustive. I think my question has been properly addressed. The names of trains are given. There are recent announcements for some more trains. However, my question is this: Will those decisions be implemented? If yes, by when?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Sir, it is not related to the Question. But whatever announcements have been made about trains, they will certainly be implemented. About the exact dates, I will write to the hon. Member and inform him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 254.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Sir, I have not asked my second supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You said that you were satisfied. So, I cannot go beyond satisfaction.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: But, Sir, my second supplementary is regarding the coaches. Will new generation coaches be introduced in these trains? The reply given by the hon. Minister is that some new generation coaches have been attached to some of these trains and details have been given. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question?

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: My question is this. There is an apprehension and complaint that the new generation coaches are tried first in the trunk-lines and then, after that, it is sent to the other areas like North East Frontier Railway. ...*(Interruptions)*... Are second-hand coaches sent there, or, are the new generation coaches first introduced there?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I can assure the hon. Member, through you, that that would never be the case as far as any zone is concerned. operationally project. However sometimes for operational reason, if there is some urgent requirement and the production has not come in, we may have had to send some coaches which are However, I am happy to share with the hon. Member through you, Sir, that I had a review meeting of the North East Frontier Railway only about a week ago when I visited Guwahati in Assam and I had taken the view that all long distance trains which come from such far-off distances and travel twenty-thirty, hours and in one case, I have been told that it travels for more than 80 hours up to Kanyakumari. We shall be replacing all of these trains with LHB coaches so as to ensure that people get very good journey throughout the North-East.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 254 - Member not present. Question No. 255. Question Hour is over. The Questions are all exhausted, but, unfortunately, so far, six Members who have raised these questions, are absent from the House. This is not a welcome thing. Members should take care to see that if they raised a question, they are present in the House. Now, the House is adjourned to meet at 2.30 p.m.