

- (iv) Adoption of Code of Practice for Fire Prevention Measures by Research, Design and Standards Organization (RDSO).
- (v) Use of superior insulating material on the roof below pantograph in local suburban trains of Mumbai area.
- (vi) Provision of smoke detection and fire extinguishing system in all the newly built EMU coaches for suburban trains.
- (vii) Provision of fire extinguishers in locomotives, air-conditioned coaches, pantry cars and passenger brake vans.
- (viii) Development of prototype fire-proof coach at Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala.
- (ix) Intensive publicity campaigns to prevent the travelling public from carriage of inflammable goods, stoves, crackers and gas cylinders etc.
- (x) Periodical Safety drives for surprise checks on luggage and parcels, strengthening of security arrangements at stations and on trains, availability of adequate fire extinguishers, etc.
- (xi) Fire alarm system is under development.
- (xii) Emergency exit windows are being provided in all coaches.
- (xiii) Imposition of ban on smoking in passenger carrying trains.

Universities in the country

†*94. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of universities in the country and the details thereof;
- (b) whether UGC propose to interconnect all universities of the country; and
- (c) if so, the details of the benefit which the students are likely to get from this measures?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), there are 286 recognised universities including 82 deemed to be Universities in the country. Besides, there are 12 Institutes of National Importance. Of the aforesaid universities, 114 State Universities, 16 Central Universities and 20 deemed to be Universities are eligible to receive development assistance under Section 12 (B) of the UGC Act, 1956.

(b) During the Tenth Plan, UGC has proposed to provide financial assistance to inter connect all the 150 universities, which are eligible to receive development assistance under Section 12 (B) of the UGC Act, 1956 through UGC-Infonet Programme.

(c) UGC-Infonet Programme will enable the students to access the database information of academic referral material available on respective web-sites within and outside the country. UGC is also envisaging subscription to electronic journals in consortia mode for the benefit of both students and teachers in the universities. Using this network, they will be able to access reputed journals in many disciplines of Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Sciences.

Amenities at Alwar Railway Station

*95. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been severe shortage of passenger amenities on Alwar Railway Station in Rajasthan;

(b) whether there has been delay in the modernisation of platforms of that station and also the present computerised booking office is being shifted to other place;

(c) whether the rapid entry display and auto response system machines installed on that station are non-functional;

(d) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(e) action contemplated by Government for the expeditious