

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4923  
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2003  
SAFETY ASPECTS OF AC COMPARTMENTS  
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether railways have examined the safety aspects of AC compartments in times of accidents and derailments ;
- (b) whether the coaches are also locked in the night;
- (c) the way in which the passengers will find the keys to get out of such sealed compartments;
- (d) whether the railways propose to ask research institutions to come up with a safer AC compartment within a time limit; and
- (e) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the safety capacities of AC compartments being used by Railways?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA)

- (a) Safety of the passengers is a high priority area of the Railways. Several improvements aimed at better reliability, safety and comfort have been introduced on AC coaches from time to time.
- (b) Generally, AC coaches are kept in locked condition from inside during night.
- (c) These doors can be opened from inside in case of any exigencies including accidents. No key is, therefore, required for this purpose.
- (d) Suitable improvements in design of AC and Non AC coaches are made regularly by indigenous development .
- (e) The salient features for improved safety, which will be installed in coaches including AC coaches, manufactured to the new design, are as under:
  - (i) Crashworthy features in passenger coaches to minimize damage to the passenger area of the coach in the event of an impact.
  - (ii) Anti climbing feature with center buffer couplings to avoid piling up of coaches in the event of accidents.
  - (iii) Fire retardant upholstery and furnishings to prevent spread of fire.
  - (iv) Modern Disc type, microprocessor controlled brake system for superior braking.
  - (v) Emergency opening windows to provide exit in case of accidents.