

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:717

ANSWERED ON:24.07.2003

INTRODUCTION OF FIRE PROOF COACHES

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

(a) whether in view of the major fire that engulfed several coaches of the Ludhiana bound Frontier Mail in May 2003, the railways have now decided to design and introduce fire proof coaches;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the help of any foreign country/firm has been sought to design the fire proof bogies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which such fire proof coaches are likely to be introduced?

**Answer**

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

(a) The common practice in Railway systems world over is to have only coaches, which make use of fire retardant material to the extent feasible. Indian Railways have also followed same practice. However, Indian Railways decided to design and manufacture a prototype coach, which will be nearly fire proof. This is an entirely new effort and was started even before Ludhiana accident.

(b) The coach is being designed by availing of the latest technology available in respect of materials, fire proofing techniques, etc. A Second General Class coach being manufactured at Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala, will be provided with Honeycomb aluminium flooring. The panels will be fire retardant Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) coated Galvanized Iron (GI) sheets. Similarly, the furniture will also use as much non-combustible materials as possible. The prototype is likely to be ready by September, 2003.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) After the prototype is manufactured, the design features to be adopted for series production will be firmed up and introduced progressively.