

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:257
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2001
WITHDRAWAL OF COACHES .
N.T. SHANMUGAM

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the coaches imported for Swarna Shatabdi Express from Alstom, LHB,were withdrawn ;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the estimated loss on account of that ;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to recover the loss from the manufacturer; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 257 BY SHRI N.T.SHANMUGA
BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 06.12.2001 REGARDING WITHDRAWAL OF COACHES

(a) Yes, Sir. The M/s ALSTOM/LHB coaches running in Delhi-Lucknow Shatabdi train were withdrawn and services continued with conventional coaches. The LHB coaches were procured with a special high capacity, tight lock center buffer coupler. Such couplers will enable running of longer trains (26 coaches). In view of the anti-climbing features, these couplers will also minimize if not eliminate altogether loss of life and/or injury to passengers during serious accidents. These couplers had been inducted for the first time in the country. Some teething problems erupted after a few weeks of running. These problems have been carefully studied and necessary modifications have been carried out by experts from ALSTOM LHB in close coordination with Railway personnel to make them suitable for Indian conditions. The attention has been provided by the supplier free of cost under the contractual obligations. The coaches are now ready for re-induction in service.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.