

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7648  
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2002  
IMPORT OF AC COACHES  
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

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

- (a) whether six AC chair coaches were imported from Germany to commemorate 150th anniversary of first train journey in India;
- (b) if so, the cost of such coaches and the number of coaches which are likely to be imported during 2002-2003 and 2003-2004;
- (c) whether the country lack capability of building such type of coaches;
- (d) if so, the steps being taken to improve the capabilities of indigenous coach building units; and
- (e) if not, the need to import coaches from Germany?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL)

(a) No, Sir. Twenty four coaches with latest `State-of-the-art technology were imported from M/s ALSTOM LHB of Germany in the year 2000, along with transfer of technology contracts to upgrade the coach manufacturing technology in the country . Five of these coaches were used in the commemorative train run on 16th April, 2002.

(b) The average cost of LHB coach imported from Germany in the year 2000 is Rs. 4.42 crores (Free on Board) including the cost of jigs and fixtures. No more coaches are likely to be imported during 2002-03 or 2003-04.

(c) to (e) The existing coach manufacturing of Indian Railway is based on an old technology of 1950s, acquired under transfer of technology contract from M/s

Schelieren of Switzerland. Action was, therefore, taken to acquire state-of-the-art coach manufacturing technology to provide world class comfort and safety to Indian Railway passengers. Technical know-how for manufacturing such coaches is being acquired under transfer of technology contract from M/S ALSTOM LHB of Germany. Special type of machines required to upgrade manufacturing capability have been planned/are under installation at the Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala, where the actual production has already commenced.