

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:178
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2002
SHORTAGE OF COACHES
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is shortage of passenger coaches in the country and the use of old passenger coaches is causing danger to the life of passengers and railway officials;
- (b) if so, the estimated shortage of passenger coaches in the country as on date and the details about the outdated coaches being used alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government propose to set up third manufacturing plant for manufacturing passenger coaches;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 178 BY SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWAI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 25.07.2002 REGARDING SHORTAGE OF COACHES.

(a) & (b): There is no shortage of Broad Gauge coaches in the country and no Broad Gauge overaged coaches are used on passenger carrying trains. Due to policy of 'Unigauge', Indian Railways had stopped manufacture of Metre Gauge and Narrow Gauge coaches as they had become surplus to requirements. Due to slow down in the pace of gauge conversions, a shortage in Metre and Narrow Gauge coaches has arisen in a few sections wherein some Metre and Narrow Gauge coaches are temporarily in use beyond their codal life after ensuring their complete safety and fitness. To overcome shortage of Metre Gauge coaches, Indian Railways has recommenced manufacture of Metre Gauge coaches from 2000-2001.

(c): No, Sir.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): There are two coach manufacturing factories under the Ministry of Railways, Integral Coach Factory at Perambur and Rail Coach Factory at Kapurthala. The annual installed capacity of these two units is 1000 coaches each. These capacities are supplemented by two more units in the public sector viz., M/s Bharat Earth Movers Limited at Bangalore and M/s Jessops near Kolkata, each capable of manufacturing upto 300 coaches. The total coach manufacturing capacity available is adequate to meet the existing level of requirement of coaches for Indian Railways as well as the export market.