

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3184
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2010
FIRE IN GUJARAT EXPRESS
Premajibhai Dr. Solanki Kiritbhai

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways are aware that there was fire in the Gujarat Express when the said train was parked at Ahmadabad railway station recently;
- (b) if so, the reasons for such mishap ascertained; and
- (c) the steps taken to prevent such mishaps in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H.MUNIYAPPA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. There was a minor incident of fire in First Class coach of empty rake of 9011 Down Gujarat Express on 18.07.2010 at Platform No. 2 of Ahmedabad Station. A Committee comprising of four Railway officers has been nominated to enquire into cause of incident. Incident has also been recorded by the GRP and samples have been handed over to the Forensic Science Laboratory, Ahmedabad. However the reason of fire is yet to be ascertained.

(c) The details of preventive measures taken are as under:

1. Frequent drives are conducted against carrying of inflammable materials and dangerous goods in trains. Defaulters are booked under Section 164 of the Railways Act and cases are registered.
2. Regular checks are being conducted against smoking in trains and the cases are registered against offenders under section 167 of Railways Act.
3. Railways is providing fire extinguishers in locomotives, AC coaches, SLRs and Pantry cars for use in emergency.
4. Staff of concerned Departments of the Railways have been given instructions to ensure that electrical appliances are switched off properly and coaches are locked.
5. Surprise checks are carried out by the RPF/GRP and Commercial Staff on luggage & parcels in trains and stations. Checks are also being conducted on two wheelers booked for transportation by trains and action taken if vehicles are found with petrol in them. Officers and Supervisors also carry out surprise checks to ensure vigil on the part of RPF/GRP escorting staff.
6. Traveling public are being educated through Public Address System and Passenger awareness campaigns are being conducted through print and electronic media about the hazards of carrying inflammable material in trains.
7. Surveillance cameras are installed at important railway stations to monitor the movements of suspected elements.
8. All train escorting staff as well as station duty staff are trained to handle fire extinguishers and also briefed to inform the nearest fire service station in case of any eventuality.