

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:105
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2011
PASSENGER COACHES
Singh Shri Radha Mohan;Singh Smt. Meena

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether coaches for passengers in Railways are provided with prescribed amenities/safety benchmarks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the condition of coaches including sleeper class coaches in several express trains is far away from satisfaction;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the measures being taken by the Railways to improve the conditions of the coaches?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 105 BY SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH AND SHRIMATI MEENA SINGH TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 03.03.2011 REGARDING PASSENGER COACHES

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Coaches for passenger services are provided with a certain level of amenities and fittings, besides conforming to laid down safety benchmark. These are as under;

Amenities in coaches:

Cushioned seats/berths, fluorescent lights, fans and toilet & washbasins facilities etc. in all mainline coaches.

Looking mirrors, Snack tables, Magazine bags, water bottle holders, coat hooks, small luggage racks, luggage securing arrangements, mobile/laptop charging sockets etc. in all reserved coaches.

Curtains for aisles/windows, berth reading lights and dustbins etc. in all AC coaches.

Safety standards in coaches:

The coach shell structure is of an "Anti-telescopic" design to enhance safety.

Coach furnishing materials conform to stringent fire retardant parameters.

The interior fittings/furnishings of the coaches are with 'injury-free' design features.

Emergency Alarm Chain apparatus.

Emergency windows in all coaches for faster exit/evacuation.

(c) to (e): No, Madam. Maintenance and upkeep of coaches, including sleeper class, is a continual requirement and this is carried out during the prescribed maintenance schedules in open line as well as periodic overhaul and refurbishment in the Workshops, where the coaches are also checked and certified by a neutral Inspection Agency. Besides, coaches are also subjected to a 'Mid-life' rehabilitation to restore their condition. Special drives are launched and surprise checks are conducted to monitor the passenger amenities and safety items in coaches.

New coach manufacturing units have also been planned to be set up for inducting more and more new coaches to improved design, aesthetics and better passenger amenities.

For improving upon the standards of cleanliness and hygiene in coaches, schemes like Intensive mechanized cleaning, On Board

House-Keeping Services (OBHS) and cleaning attention to trains during their stoppage at "Clean Train Stations" etc. have also been launched.