

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5786
ANSWERED ON:08.09.2011
REPLACEMENT OF COACHES
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Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways propose to replace indigenous coaches with German made coaches in all trains in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the likely advantage vis-À-vis financial implications involved therein;
- (c) the salient features of new coaches vis-À-vis the existing coaches;
- (d) the time-frame set for replacement of coaches in all the trains; and
- (e) the steps being proposed to upgrade the existing Rail Coach Factories in the country to international standards?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): Indian Railways plan to progressively increase the manufacture of new LHB (Linke Hofmann Bush) design coaches, the technology for which was acquired through a transfer of technology (TOT) agreement with M/s ALSTOM, Germany. A complete switchover to new manufacture of only LHB design coaches is envisaged by the end of the five year plan 2012-17. The existing conventional ICF (Integral Coach Factory) design coaches shall however still remain in service.

These coaches have the following superior features as compared to the conventional ICF design coach:-

- # Longer service life
- # Enhanced safety standards, particularly crash worthiness
- # High carrying capacity of about 10-12%
- # Higher speed potential
- # Superior riding comfort
- # Aesthetic interiors
- # Lower maintenance- no corrosion owing to stainless steel body etc.

The average differential in the cost of manufacture of LHB design coach and the corresponding ICF design coach is presently approx. Rs. 75 Lakh - 1 Crore , but this is expected to reduce significantly with volume production of LHB coaches .

(e) Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala is already a Coach Production Unit to International standards. Projects have also been sanctioned to further upgrade the facilities at Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala and Integral Coach Factory, Chennai to increase production of LHB design coaches.