

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1492

ANSWERED ON:22.03.2012

PUBLIC AMENITIES

Agarwal Shri Rajendra; Chauhan Shri Sanjay Singh; Kurup Shri N. Peethambara; Pandey Saroj; Patel Shri Devji

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have taken necessary steps regarding improving the quality of cleanliness at railway stations and in the trains particularly the progress made in the direction of providing zero-discharge toilets in all trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be provided;

(c) the steps taken for providing optimum public amenities such as expanding reservation centre, retiring room, refreshment facilities, parking auto/taxi facilities, drinking water, foot over bridge at various stations particularly Muzaffarnagar (Uttar Pradesh), Byndoor-Mookambika Road station in Konkan route and Abu Road in Rajasthan; and

(d) the details of funds allocated for the said purposes during each of the last three years?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1492 BY KUMARI SAROJ PANDEY, SHRI SANJAY SINGH CHAUHAN, SHRI N. PEETHAMBARA KURUP, SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL AND SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 22.03.2012 REGARDING PUBLIC AMENITIES.

(a) & (b): Indian Railways take multi-pronged action by synergising technology, education of users and provision of mechanized equipments to improve the standard of cleanliness at railway stations. The measures taken include introduction of mechanized cleaning process, award of rag picking/ garbage disposal contracts and introduction of 'pay & use' toilet scheme. Besides, cleanliness drives are also launched from time to time. Inspections by various officials at the railway stations are also conducted to monitor cleanliness and take remedial measures. To eliminate the open discharge of human waste on to the tracks, a multipronged strategy is being followed by Indian Railways. Presently, about 250 bio-toilets of different designs are in service. Most of these bio-toilets are based on technology jointly developed by Indian Railway's mechanical Engineers and Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) bio-technologists working under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between Indian Railways and DRDO in March 2010. Further, instructions have been issued for induction of about 2500 Indian Railway -DRDO bio-toilets. Trial is planned in one rake with Zero Discharge Toilet System (ZDTS) jointly developed by RDSO & IIT, Kanpur.

(c): Minimum essential amenities including booking facilities, drinking water, foot over bridge, etc., as per norms have already been provided at all stations. Some recommended/desirable amenities such as retiring rooms, refreshment facilities, parking facilities etc. have been provided at the select stations as per requirement of traffic.

Muzaffarnagar and Abu Road are 'A' category stations where parking, foot over bridges, etc. have already been provided. Mookambika Road-Byndoor Station is a halt station where minimum essential amenities have already been provided.

(d): Zone-wise details of the funds allocated and expenditure incurred under plan head 'Passenger Amenities' during the last three years and the current year is given annexure.