

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:385

ANSWERED ON:20.12.2012

BIO TOILETS IN TRAINS

Bhoi Shri Sanjay;Chitthan Shri N.S.V.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways propose to install bio-toilets in all passenger trains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the estimated cost of retrofitting with such toilets;
- (c) whether the Railways have run any pilot project in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the time by which all trains will be retrofitted with bio-toilets; and
- (e) the action taken/being taken by the Railways in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 385 BY SHRI N. S. V. CHITTHAN AND SHRI SANJAY BHOI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 20.12.2012 REGARDING BIO-TOILETS IN TRAINS.

(a) to (e): Yes, Madam. So far, a total of 68 bio-toilets based on Aerobic bacteria (imported) and 436 bio-toilets based on Anaerobic bacteria {developed indigenously by Indian Railways (IR) and Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)} are installed for in-service trials in nine trains. It is planned to induct bio-toilets in new coaches and through retro-fitment in existing coaches in phased manner based on the experience gained and outcome of these trials. The estimated cost of retro-fitment in existing coaches is expected to be approximately ` 15 lakhs per coach, while in case of original fitting in the new coaches, the cost will be about ` 3 lakhs per coach. This is because the quantum of work to be done and material required in case of retro-fitment is significantly more. The retro-fitment of bio-toilet tanks requires precision welding of high quality as any fitment failure can compromise safety of the train during run. The first train Gwalior-Varanasi Bundelkhand Express fitted with IR-DRDO bio-toilets is in service since January 2011. While it would be Indian Railways' endeavor to install environment friendly bio-toilets in all its passenger coaches at the earliest, the time frame for their full scale deployment and investment required will depend upon the changes and modifications necessitated from time to time due to exigencies of their usage conditions and the results of on-going retro-fitment trials of these toilets.