

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3037

ANSWERED ON:29.08.2013

SAFETY BENCHMARKS

Choudhry Smt. Shruti;Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai;Semmalai Shri S.

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether coaches for passengers in Railways are provided on the basis of number of travellers with prescribed amenities/safety benchmarks;
- (b) if so, the details of the norms or criteria for the same;
- (c) whether the condition of coaches including sleeper class and general 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 including current status of replacing old and worn out coaches with new Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY)

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. Regular analysis and review of occupancy pattern is undertaken and efforts are made for introduction of new trains, enhancement of extra coaches in the existing trains and running of special trains subject to operational feasibility, commercial justification, availability of resources etc.

Coaches for passenger services are provided with a certain level of amenities and fittings, which conform to laid down safety benchmarks. The amenities provided in coaches include:

# Cushioned seats/berths, 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 reserved Coaches (including sleeper class coaches).

# Curtains for aisles/windows and dustbins etc. in all AC coaches.

# Lights, fans, night lights and emergency lights in all passenger coaches. The Safety Standards in coaches include:

# 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 in all coaches for stopping the train in emergency.

# Emergency windows in all coaches for faster exit/evacuation.

(c) to (e) No, Madam. Maintenance and upkeep of coaches, including Sleeper class and General Second class, is a continual requirement and this is carried out during the prescribed maintenance schedules in open line as well as periodic overhaul in the Workshops. 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. Replacement of old coaches with new coaches including new Linke Hofmann Bush (LHB) coaches is an ongoing process subject to completion of codal life and condition of coaches.