

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1320

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2013

FIRE ACCIDENTS

Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari; Rao Shri Nama Nageswara; Yadav Shri Ranjan Prasad

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

- (a) the number of train fire incidents during the last three years, year and train-wise;
- (b) the number of passengers killed, train-wise and losses incurred as a result thereof;
- (c) the inquiries conducted to determine the reasons behind such incidents and preventive steps taken thereof; and
- (d) whether trains have been provided with latest fire-fighting equipment, if so, the details thereof, zone-wise and the funds spent for this purpose during the Eleventh and Twelfth Five Year Plan period and if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Answer**

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

(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.1320 BY SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB, PROF. (DR.) RANJAN PRASAD YADAV AND SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO TO BE ANSWERED IN LOKSABHA ON 12.12.2013 REGARDING FIRE ACCIDENTS

(a) & (b): The details are as under:

| Year    | Number of Train Fire Incidents | Number of Passengers Killed | Number of damages | Cost of          | Type of Trains involved |
|---------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| 2010-11 | 2                              | Nil                         | Rs 1.04 crores    | Passenger trains |                         |
| 2011-12 | 4                              | 9                           | Rs 2.84 crores    | Passenger trains |                         |
| 2012-13 | 8                              | 30                          | Rs 7.18 crores    | Passenger trains |                         |

(c): Out of the total 14 Train Fire Incidents reported during the given period, inquiries were conducted at the level of Commissioner Railway Safety in 6 cases and the rest departmentally.

Railways have taken various measures to prevent incident of fire in trains, which include the followings:-

# Indian Railways have always endeavoured to enhance fire worthiness of coaches by using fire retardant furnishing materials to mitigate effect of fire such as Compreg Board/PVC for coach flooring, laminated sheets for roof, ceiling wall and partition paneling, Renexe and cushioning material for seats and berths, Fibre Reinforced Plastic (FRP) Windows and UIC Vestibule, etc.

# Railways have also taken measures to prevent fire due to electrical short circuits in coaches, which include (a) three levels of protection in non AC coaches in case of short circuit, (b) separation of positive and negative wires,

(c) use of fire retardant material in all electrical items.

# With a view to improve fire safety in running trains, a pilot project for provision of Comprehensive Fire and Smoke Detection System has been taken up in one rake of Rajdhani Express. Similar automatic fire alarm system in 20 more rakes for extended field trails has also been decided. The system will provide advance warning in case of any fire hazard in running train and thus enable the passengers to protect them from fire.

# Guard-cum-Brake Van and AC Coaches in all trains are provided with portable fire extinguishers to cater for emergencies due to fire accidents.

# Detailed instructions have been issued to zonal railways for observance of safe practices in handling of pantry cars and for ensuring periodical inspection of electrical and LPG fittings in the pantry cars.

# Intensive publicity campaigns to prevent the travelling public from carrying inflammable goods are regularly undertaken.

(d); Dry Chemical powder type fire extinguishers are being provided in Trains. These are portable fire extinguishers and easy to use by the on board staff or passengers in case of Emergency. Fire extinguishers are being provided in all Air-conditioned coaches, second class-cum guard and luggage van, Pantry cars and train locomotives. Total fund spent in the 11th and 12th Five Year Plans on fire extinguishers is around Rs 8.63 crores, a details of which is given as under:

| Sl. No | Railways            | Total (Rs, in Lakhs) |
|--------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1      | South East Central  | 19.82                |
| 2      | East Coast          | 77.82                |
| 3      | North East frontier | 32.29                |
| 4      | Northern            | 51.81                |
| 5      | North Central       | 27.94                |
| 6      | Eastern             | 82.00                |
| 7      | West Central        | 18.06                |
| 8      | South Central       | 16.47                |
| 9      | South Eastern       | 89.82                |
| 10     | North Eastern       | 19.20                |
| 11     | North Western       | 9.17                 |
| 12     | South Western       | 29.00                |
| 13     | Southern            | 18.70                |
| 14     | Western             | 149.46               |
| 15     | Central             | 131.50               |
| 16     | East Central        | 90.00                |
| TOTAL  |                     | 863.06 = 8.63 crores |