

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4277

ANSWERED ON:20.04.2015

TRAIN ACCIDENTS DUE TO FIRE

Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao;Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari;Sreeramulu Shri B.

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

(a) the number of train accidents due to fire have been reported in the country during the last three years and the major reasons for such fire accidents; and

(b) the steps taken by the Railways to prevent such fire accidents at railway stations endangering the public life?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) & (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) AND (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4277 BY SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB, SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE AND SHRI B. SRIRAMULU TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 20.04.2015 REGARDING TRAIN ACCIDENTS DUE TO FIRE.

(a): The number of consequential accidents of fire in trains during the last three years, i.e. 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 is given below:

Year	No. of Accidents of fire
2012-13	09
2013-14	07
2014-15	06
TOTAL	22

As per the inquiry reports including prima facie, out of the above 22 consequential accidents of fire in trains, 13 were caused due to failure of other than railway staff, 8 were caused due to failure of railway staff and cause of 01 incident of fire in train is awaited.

(b): Following steps are being taken on Indian Railways to prevent fire accidents in trains:

# Indian Railways have always endeavoured to enhance fire worthiness of coaches by using fire retardant furnishing materials to mitigate effect of fire. Specifications for such furnishing materials have been periodically reviewed to incorporate fire retardant parameters in line with UIC and other international norms. All new manufacture of coaches/periodical overhauling of existing coaches is being carried out with fire retardant specifications of the furnishing materials wherever condition based replacements are warranted.

# 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 New Delhi – Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express on East Coast Railway. Besides, one LHB (Linke Hofmann Busch) New Delhi – Jammu Tawi Rajdhani and one rake of LHB AC Double Decker Coaches running between Kachiguda – Tirupati/Guntur have also been provided with such a system.

# Fire extinguishers are being provided in all Air-conditioned coaches, Second class – cum – guard and luggage vans, Pantry cars and train locomotives.

# Improved materials for electrical fittings and fixtures such as MCB, light fittings, terminal boards, connectors, etc., are being used progressively.

# 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.

Fire fighting arrangements have also been made at railway stations over Indian Railways which are given below:

- i. Each station is provided with two numbers of dry chemical powder type fire extinguishers.
- ii. Fire buckets filled with dry sand and water are provided at all stations.
- iii. Safety posters for operating various types of fire extinguishers have been displayed at stations.
- iv. At large stations, smoke detectors in Route Relay Interlocking installations have been provided.
- v. Front line staff such as Station Masters have been imparted regular training to operate fire extinguishers.
- vi. Periodical drill on fire fighting is conducted.
- vii. The telephone number of nearby fire brigades is kept available at Railway stations.
- viii. Frequent drives against carrying of inflammable/dangerous articles in trains as well as station premises are undertaken.