

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4103
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2014
SAFEGUARD AGAINST FIRE ACCIDENTS
Singh Shri Rakesh

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have put adequate fire safety measures to curb/check fire accidents in trains; and
(b) if so, the details thereof including induction of fire proof coaches, zone-wise, train-wise?

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) & (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4103 BY SHRI RAKESH SINGH TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 07.08.2014 REGARDING SAFEGUARD AGAINST FIRE ACCIDENTS

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): Measures taken by Indian Railways to curb/check fire accidents in trains are indicated below:-

Indian Railways have always endeavoured to enhance fire worthiness of coaches by using fire retardant furnishing materials to mitigate effects of fire, such as Compreg Board/PVC (Poly Vinyl Chloride) for coach flooring, NFTC (Natural Fibre Thermosetting Composite) sheets for ceiling, laminated sheets for wall and partition paneling, Rexene and cushioning material for seats and berths, FRP (Fibre Reinforced Plastic) Windows and UIC (International union of Railways) Vestibule etc. Specifications for such furnishing materials have been periodically reviewed to incorporate 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.

There are three levels of protection in a non-air conditioned coach and four tier protection in air conditioned coaches on account of electrical short circuit. Besides, materials used for wiring, rotary switches, fuses, cables, etc. have excellent fire retardant properties conforming to Indian standards and International standards. Electrical supply system in all passenger coaches is adequately designed to ensure safety against any electrical short circuit.

All Guard-cum-Brake-Vans, Pantry Cars and air conditioned Coaches are provided with portable fire extinguishers to cater for emergencies due to fire accidents. Besides, train locomotives are now being provided with four fire extinguishers in each locomotive.

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(Liquefied Petroleum Gas) fittings in the pantry cars.

Directions have been issued for provision of fire suppression system, both in pantry cars and power cars. Accordingly, specification for water mist type fire suppression system for pantry cars and power cars has also been issued by RDSO(Research Designs & Standards Organisation) for provision in these coaches.

A pilot project for field trial with fire and smoke detection system has been taken up in one Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) rake of New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express. Besides, one LHB rake in New Delhi-Jammu Tawi Rajdhani train and one Double Decker rake running in South Central Railway has also been provided with such system. Based on the feedback from initial trial, technical specification has been revised for extended field trial on representative population of coaches. In the revised specification Air Brake System has been interfaced with Fire and Smoke Detection System for stoppage of trains in emergency situations. Board has sanctioned for provision of this system on 750 coaches for extended field trial.