

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 65
ANSWERED ON 24.07.2026

WASTE MANAGEMENT BY INDIAN RAILWAYS

*65 DR. V. SIVADASAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the mechanism adopted by Indian Railways for collection, treatment and disposal of waste generated from trains and railway stations;
- (b) whether waste treatment plants have been established for processing such waste;
- (c) if so, the number of such plants, zone-wise, along with their treatment capacities; and
- (d) the designation of officers responsible for waste management at the station, divisional, zonal and Railway Board levels?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.65 BY DR. V. SIVADASAN ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 24.07.2026 REGARDING WASTE MANAGEMENT BY INDIAN RAILWAYS

(a) to (d): Indian Railways has adopted a comprehensive mechanism for collection, treatment and disposal of waste generated from trains and railway stations. At stations, twin dustbins have been provided for collection and segregation of waste at source. Waste generated in the trains is collected at regular interval at nominated waste handling stations. These stations have tie-ups with Urban Local Bodies/Municipal Authorities for proper disposal of waste.

Further, Indian Railways has also established Waste processing plants as Bio-gas, Composting and Plastic Bottle Crushing Machines at different stations based on operational needs. Details of such facilities are as below:

S.No.	Type of Plant	No. of Plants commissioned	Installed Capacity
1	Bio-gas plant	13	5,095 kg per day
2	Composting Plant	171	24,817 kg per day
3	Material Recovery Facility	08	7,725 kg per day
4	Plastic Bottle Crushing Machines	858 machines	

- Pursuant to the applicability of new Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 and directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, Indian Railways has initiated a series of measures for strengthening solid waste management across its establishments.
- Railway Board has issued Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) on Solid Waste Management covering railway stations, trains, railway colonies, hospitals, workshops, production units and all other railway establishments. SoP provides detailed guidelines regarding segregation, collection, transportation, processing and scientific disposal of waste, monitoring mechanisms and well defined responsibilities at all administrative levels.
- Zonal Railways has initiated identification of its units which qualify as bulk waste generators as per SWM Rules, 2026. An “As-is Waste Characterization and Quantification Study” has been planned to assess the existing waste generation across all Indian Railways establishments and trains.

- Zonal Railways have also nominated dedicated Nodal Officers to prepare comprehensive action plans for Waste Management, conduct periodic audits, monitor implementation and regularly share compliance report to Railway Board. Divisions have also been directed to prepare action plan for effective waste management. Dedicated Environment & Housekeeping Management (EnHM) departments have been established at Divisions, Zonal Railways and Railway Board level to monitor and handle waste management related matters.
- To ensure effective end-to-end cleanliness and hygiene management in trains, On board housekeeping service (OBHS) is provided which is currently available in 1450 (pairs) identified long distance trains.
- Clean Train Station (CTS) scheme at 63 stations has been implemented covering 2800 trains. Under this scheme, a dedicated team of staff equipped with cleaning equipment carries out cleaning of coach toilets & washbasins and collect garbage from train's dustbins during halt time.
- Direct discharge of human waste from trains has been eliminated through installation of bio-toilets in passenger coaches. The details of provision of bio-toilets are as under:

Period	No. of Bio-Toilets fitted in trains
2004-2014	9,587
2014- till June 2026	3,63,990 (around 38 times)
