

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 319  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2018**

**BIO-TOILETS**

**\*319. SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI:  
SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI:**

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

**(a) whether the deficiencies/shortcomings pointed out by the Comptroller and Auditor General, in its report in 2017, regarding the bio-toilets installed in the trains and stations have been taken into consideration by the Railways;**

**(b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Railways thereon, particularly about the quantity and quality of the toilets installed by private firms and if not, the reasons therefor;**

**(c) whether the Railways has taken any initiatives to train the staff and create awareness among the general public regarding the maintenance and use of bio-toilets; and**

**(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COAL, FINANCE AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS  
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

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

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 319 BY SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI AND  
SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON  
08.08.2018 REGARDING BIO-TOILETS**

**(a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) in its report no. 36 of 2017 has mentioned instances of deficiencies/complaints such as choking, foul smell, non-availability of dust bins/mugs, non-functional sub-assemblies/components etc. in bio-toilets. Bio-toilets, being proliferated in Indian Railways' coaches, are vulnerable to misuse. Generally, the problems of choking and foul smell in coach lavatories are due to use of toilet pan as garbage bins, inadequate use of water in flushing and inadequate ventilation. Following actions have been taken by the Railways to address these issues:**

- Passengers are being educated regarding proper use of bio-toilets.**
- Provision of individual dust bin in each coach lavatory has been made mandatory.**
- Improved flushing system is being installed.**
- Improvement to ventilation systems is also underway to eliminate foul smell.**
- Concerned staff is being trained for proper up-keep and maintenance of bio-toilets.**
- Continual design improvements are being done like replacement of ball valve, P-trap and wire rope operating mechanism with simpler S-trap arrangement.**
- Vacuum based flushing system.**

**To address quality issues, specifications have been made more stringent and stern assessment of concerned vendors is being done.**

**Contd...2/-**

**Strict inspection of bio-toilet material is being carried out by inspection agencies.**

**To address quantity issues, approved vendor list for retention tank (bio-toilets) has recently been revised and there are 20 suppliers in the present Vendor Directory having a combined declared monthly capacity of more than 12800 bio-toilets (retention tanks) which is adequate for Indian Railways' requirement. To expedite the supply & installation of bio-toilets in Zonal Railways, method of placing Centralised Rate Contracts from Railway Board has already been adopted for bulk purchase & accelerated retro-fitment of bio-toilets.**

**(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. A special training module on bio-toilet system has been started in Centre for Advanced Maintenance Technology (CAMTECH) at Gwalior for training of staff concerned with up-keep and maintenance of bio-toilets in coaches. Training is also being imparted to the concerned staff in Zonal Railways.**

**Extensive public awareness campaigns about appropriate usage of bio-toilets using all means are being conducted by Zonal Railways.**

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