

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1340
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2018**

FIRE INCIDENTS

†1340. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fire incidents in the Railways reported in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh during the last three years and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(b) the details of loss of lives and property and subsequent inquiry report in a recent major fire incident at Itarsi railway station and also in a major incident happened on 17th June, 2015;

(c) whether the Government has taken any concrete steps to stop recurrence of fire incidents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN)

(a) to (d): One consequential train incident of 'fire in train' took place on the Jhansi Division (Morena/Madhya Pradesh) of North Central Railway on 25.01.2017. In addition, few other minor incidences of fire were also reported from Railways, within the jurisdiction of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh states, during last three years. In case of any fire incident, enquiry is conducted as per due procedure to ascertain the causes, fix responsibility and to take remedial measures.

No loss of life was reported in the fire incidents which occurred at Itarsi on 17.06.2015 and recently on 08.05.2018. However, loss of railway property to the tune of ₹ 19.5 lakh (approximately) and ₹ 50.50 lakh (approximately) was suffered by different Departments of Railways in the above fire incidents respectively. In the fire incident dated 17.06.2015, departmental action was initiated against delinquent railway staff under Discipline and Appeal Rules. A joint circular for safety check was also issued by concerned Directorates of Ministry of Railways in consultation with RDSO. In the recent fire incident dated 08.05.2018, action has been initiated against the firm held responsible for the fire.

Several steps are being taken to reduce incidents of fire in train coaches. It is a continual endeavour of Indian Railways to improve fire retardancy in coaches by providing fire retardant furnishing materials in coaches. A parameter called Heat Release Rate has been added in the material specification of all major interior furnishing materials as per latest European norms, in order to improve fire safety in coaches. Instructions have been issued to Production Units for provision of following in all newly manufactured coaches:

- Fire detection and suppression system in all newly manufactured Power Cars and Pantry Cars;**
- Fire and Smoke detection system in all newly manufactured Air Conditioned (AC) coaches;**
- Fire extinguishers in all newly manufactured non-AC coaches**
(in addition to AC coaches)

Steps have been taken to improve fire safety features in existing coaches also. In this direction, sanction under Rolling Stock Programme has been taken for provision of fire extinguisher in non-AC coaches, fire suppression and detection system in power cars and pantry car and fire & smoke detection system in AC coaches.

Besides, offenders carrying inflammable items are being prosecuted under relevant provisions of the Railways Act. Action is also being taken against persons found smoking in Railway premises.
