

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.124
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2018**

FOG SAFETY DEVICES

***124. SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:
SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that passengers of Indian Railways face great difficulty especially during winter season as most of the time trains are delayed/ cancelled because of fog and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Railways has installed fog safety devices to solve the problems which are being faced by the drivers especially during the winter season in seeing the signals and if so, the number of trains in which fog safety devices have been installed so far, zone-wise;

(c) the extent to which this device helps to run the train in dense fog along with the number of trains proposed to be equipped with such device in near future, zone-wise;

(d) whether the Railways also proposes to deploy fogmen for placing detonators on railway tracks, if so, the details thereof along with the other measures being considered for safety of passengers and trains; and

(e) the details of the steps taken by the Government to improve facilities being provided to the passengers during the winter season in all the railway zones in the country including the Bundelkhand railway zone?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND COAL

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 124 BY SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT AND SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 19.12.2018 REGARDING FOG SAFETY DEVICES

(a) A large number of trains are affected every year during foggy weather in the winter months in Northern parts of the country.

(b) Yes, Madam. A Fog Safety Device called 'Fog Pass Device' (FPD) a Global Positioning System (GPS) based portable device is carried by the Loco Pilot. These are not fixed on any train and are being used only in those zones of Indian Railways that are fog affected. Details of Fog Pass Devices procured and provided to Zonal Railways, which are affected by foggy weather conditions, are as under:

Zonal Railway	No. of devices provided
East Central	877
Northern	2648
North Central	537
North Eastern	975
Northeast Frontier	1101
North Western	802
Total	6940

(c) Fog Pass Device is a GPS based hand held portable system device provided as an aid for the crew during foggy weather through audio visual alarm, whenever any landmark comes within the Geo-fence range. Location of stations, warning boards, signals, level crossing gates and Whistle Limit (W/L) boards in the section is fed in the equipment. While approaching these pre fed locations, equipment gives audio visual alarm as and when it falls within the Geo-fence distance. It displays speed of the locomotive, distance and time to reach landmarks. 6940 Nos. Fog Pass Devices are in use over East Central Railway, Northern Railway, North Central Railway,

North Eastern Railway, Northeast Frontier Railway and North Western Railway which are the most fog affected Railways. 6000 nos. more Fog Pass Devices have been sanctioned and included in Pink Book 2018-19. Purchase order for 6000 units has already been issued in August, 2018. Zone-wise details of Purchase Orders issued are as under:

Zonal Railway	Purchase order issued (No. of devices)
Central	560
Eastern	245
East Central	630
Eastcoast	375
Northern	933
North Central	772
North Eastern	130
North Western	20
Southern	410
South Central	550
South Eastern	590
South East Central	225
West Central	560
Total	6000

(d) Yes, Madam. Guidelines have been issued instructing Zonal Railways to take action during foggy season to ensure safe train operations as under:-

- (i) To provide safeguards in train operation in Automatic Block System during foggy weather by restricting the number of trains to two between two stations.**
- (ii) Reducing the speed of train in case of poor visibility.**
- (iii) Deputing additional staff (fog signal man) to alert the Loco Pilot through placement of detonators before the First Stop signal.**
- (iv) Improving the visibility of signals and signal sighting boards.**

(v) Loco Pilot to take precautions for being vigilant and alert and to observe Special Rules and instructions regarding speed limits under foggy conditions.

(e) The facilities provided to all rail passengers, including of Bundelkhand area which are helpful to them during winters also include:-

(i) Dissemination of information to passengers through SMS about cancellation of trains, late running of trains in case of identified trains and change in passenger's reservation status etc.

(ii) Automatic refund to e-ticket holders in case of cancellation of trains.

(iii) Cancellation of Computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counter tickets through IRCTC website or through 139.
