

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1695  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2025

WATER CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN SMALL RAILWAY STATIONS

1695. SMT. RACHNA BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware about the water crisis in many small railway stations especially during summer season;
- (b) if so, the initiatives implemented/being implemented for efficient water management at railway stations including rainwater harvesting and wastewater recycling;
- (c) the details of the progress of implementing bio-toilets in all passenger coaches; and
- (d) the details of the plans for integrated solid waste management at railway premises?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) & (b): Indian Railways ensure ample water supply at railway stations by measuring expected consumption, making alternative arrangements for shortfalls, and collaborating with municipalities, local water tanker suppliers, and other sources as needed. Instances

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of inadequate drinking water have been reported recently at small railway stations during summer season. Regular monitoring of water supply at those stations was done to ensure adequate water supply which includes arranging water tankers, boring additional hand pumps, etc. Indian Railways has implemented initiatives for efficient water management, including installing Rain Water Harvesting (RWH) systems, treating water from Water Recycling Plants for non-potable uses, and conducting regular Water Audits.

(c): From year 2014 to 2025, 92,232 Coaches with 3,33,191 Bio toilets were provided against 3647 Coaches with 9587 Bio toilet provided from year 2004-14. All passenger carrying mainline coaches have been provisioned with bio-toilets.

(d): System of effective management, including disposal of waste generated at railway stations and surrounding areas is in place. Significant initiatives taken in this regard are as follows:

- (i) Waste collected inside trains is disposed of at nominated en-route stations, identified for waste disposal.
- (ii) Provision of two bin type dustbins has been carried out at 725 locations for segregation of bio-degradable and non-biodegradable waste at source.
- (iii) Plastic Bottle Crushing Machines (PBCMs) are installed at 531 stations as per requirement.

- (iv) Infrastructure like Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs), Material Recovery Facility (MRF) has been installed and commissioned on need basis, at a number of locations over Indian Railways. Presently, 142 STPs, 86 ETPs and 203 MRFs are in place.
- (v) Dedicated Environment & Housekeeping (EnHM) wings have been set up in Zonal Railways to monitor/handle waste management related matters.
- (vi) Railways engage with Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), who have a significant role to play in effective waste management around station areas.

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