

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1857  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2026**

**PLASTIC-FREE AND ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY RAILWAY**

**1857. SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that large quantities of plastic waste such as bottles, food containers and packaging materials are being thrown along railway tracks and near railway stations despite the nationwide plastic ban and the availability of dustbins in trains;**
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure proper collection, segregation, and recycling of such waste generated on trains and station premises;**
- (c) whether any monitoring mechanism/penalty system is in place to prevent passengers and vendors from dumping plastic waste on tracks and open areas and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) the details of future plans to make the Railways a plastic-free and environment-friendly transport network?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

**(a) to (d): Effective management including disposal of waste generated in trains and Railway stations, catering units and coaches is accorded high priority by Indian Railways for enhanced users' experience. Various initiatives taken in this regard are as follows:-**

- Waste collected inside trains is disposed of at nominated en-route stations, identified for waste disposal.**
- On Board Housekeeping Staff are strictly mandated not to throw garbage on tracks and strict penalties are imposed on violation.**
- Rag picking is done along railway tracks to maintain cleanliness.**

- **Plastic Bottle Crushing Machines (PBCMs) are installed at stations as per requirement.**
- **Provision of two bin type dustbins has been carried out at various stations for segregation of bio-degradable and non-biodegradable waste, at source.**
- **Based on local conditions, feasibility and requirement, tie-ups for waste disposal, have been made between local Railway authorities and municipal bodies.**
- **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.**
- **Passenger awareness campaigns are regularly conducted across Indian Railways for encouraging them to dispose garbage in dustbins provided in trains.**
- **Regular checks/surprise checks are conducted by supervisors/senior officials at Divisional, Zonal & Headquarter level.**
- **Special Cleanliness Campaigns under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and cleanliness drives/campaigns are organized regularly over Indian Railways with the objective to achieve significant and sustainable improvements in cleanliness standards.**
- **Elimination of direct discharge of human waste from trains through installation of bio-toilets in passenger coaches. The details of provision of Bio-toilets are as under:**

<b>Period</b>	<b>No. of Bio-Toilets fitted</b>
<b>2004-14</b>	<b>9,587</b>
<b>2014-till date</b>	<b>3,61,572</b>

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