

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 540
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2015**

BIO/VACUUM TOILETS IN TRAINS

**540. SHRI ELUMALAI V.:
SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM:
SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER:
SHRI BHAGWANTH KHUBA:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that the Railways are considering introducing vacuum toilets in trains and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether it is also true that the first prototype of a hybrid vacuum toilet has already been installed in the Delhi-Dibrugarh Rajdhani Express on trial basis;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) the advantages of these toilets as compared to the ones that are already in existence; and**
- (e) whether the Government proposes to install these toilets in other trains and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

- (a) Yes, Madam. A development tender for 80 vacuum toilets for 40 coaches is under consideration.**

(b) & (c) Yes, Madam. A hybrid vacuum toilet, combining requisite features (i) of standard vacuum toilet system (being used in advanced railway systems of the world) and (ii) of bio-toilet system (being used in Indian railways network), has been installed for trial in a First Class air conditioned coach of Dibrugarh Rajdhani in September 2015.

(d) The following advantages are envisaged by using hybrid vacuum toilets:

- 1. Elimination of direct discharge of human waste from coach toilets onto the railway tracks and platform aprons at stations.**
- 2. Significantly less quantity of water is used for flushing human waste thereby resulting in substantial water saving.**
- 3. No need to evacuate waste collected in retention tanks and thus no need to install expensive waste handling facilities for evacuation of waste.**

(e) The decision to install these toilets in trains will depend upon the outcome of the trials and acceptability of such toilets.
