

85% of railway coaches lack fire safety warning systems, admits minister

TNN | Dec 16, 2014, 05.01AM IST



NEW DELHI: Despite spending over Rs 40,000 on safety in the railways, 85% of the coaches do not have fire safety warning systems.

Speaking in Lok Sabha on railway safety, minister of state for railways Manoj Sinha admitted that non-AC coaches did not have fire alarm systems. "There is a lack of resources because of which we have not been able to put alarm systems in all coaches. We will add systems as and when we can," he said.



85% of railway coaches do not have fire safety warning systems, the govt admitted in Parliament on Monday.

Replacing old systems, adopting new technology, updating signaling system and training staff are some of the steps Indian Railways have taken to increase safety and prevent accidents, the minister said.

Sinha said timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies, regular monitoring and educating staff about the issue of safety are some of the various measures adopted.

In response to a supplementary question, he said the gross expenditure on specific safety related activities has increased over the years. In 2013-14, Rs 39,090 crore were spent on safety related activities. The budgetary estimates for 2014-15 for safety are Rs 43,443 crore, he said.

As on April 1, there were 2,25,863 vacancies in the 16 railway zones relating to posts under various categories, including safety.