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Title: Need to take steps to prevent accidents due to fire in trains.

SHRI R. THAMARAISELVAN (DHARMAPURI): Thank you, Madam. I would like to raise an important issue concerning the safety of railway passengers.

Madam, the fire accidents in the trains of our country have become a regular phenomenon, causing loss of precious life and property. Every time, we order an investigation into the cause of accident, but the result is that there is no arrest in such fire accidents.

I would like to mention here certain incidents since July this year. There were more than three reported train fire accidents such as the one occurred near Nellore. As many as 32 people were charred to death and 25 others injured when a fire broke out in a coach of New Delhi-Chennai Tamil Nadu Express on 30th July, 2012. Again on 30th November, 2012, two AC coaches of the GT Express caught fire near Gwalior, leaving at least one person dead. On 04th December, 2012, a major tragedy was averted in Mumbai after a fire that broke out in the engine of a local train. Three persons were reportedly scorched in the fire. Even today, at 3.00 a.m., there was a major fire in a goods train carrying petrol on Lucknow-Howrah rail route with more than 16 bogies were gutted. This resulted a lot of disruption on this major and busy Lucknow-Howrah rail route causing inconvenience to a lot of commuters.

Madam, many committees have suggested and recommended measures to prevent accidents but, unfortunately, none of these recommendations were implemented by the Railways. In most of the trains, much needed smoke detectors or alarm systems have not been installed. Had they been installed, the Railways would have been able to prevent these fire accidents in trains.

Therefore, I urge upon the hon. Minister for Railways to direct the Railways to forthwith install smoke detector or alarm system in all the trains on a war footing so as to stop these untoward incidents.