

Suresh Prabhu mulls forum for Make in India

In a bid to give a boost to the “Make In India” campaign, minister for railways Suresh Prabhu is seeking to create a scientific and technological collaboration forum among major government technical and scientific agencies. The forum will work for the development of special material and technologies for improving railway rolling stock for providing safer, efficient and economical services. “The aim is to reduce railways’ dependence on other countries and give an impetus to creation of new technologies within India by creating an organised synergy between major government bodies in the field of scientific and technological research and production. This will help in developing systems for Indian Railways which are best suited to the country’s local conditions and needs,” said a senior official. He said that the forum would create a constantly-evolving rolling stock technology development process to create exportable products like coaches, locomotives, wagons, cranes, special vehicles.

“As a first step in this direction, the ministry of railways convened a round-table session on Monday with the heads of ISRO, CSIR, DRDO, RDSO, department of science and technology and defence production. The meeting was chaired by Union minister of state Manoj Sinha,” said the official.

The Railways has sought collaboration in areas of structural material, paneling material for coaches, germicidal and wear resistant furnishing material, coating and special paints with better cleaning properties and pest control capability, noise and thermal insulation material. It has also sought to work on technology for fog vision, embedded systems for onboard condition monitoring of rolling stock, facial and gesture recognition software for security cameras on trains, solar heat engines.

The DRDO made a detailed presentation about special material developed by them for use in defense and space applications which included special high strength alloys of steel and aluminium. Also, special technologies for developing fog vision and for detection of obstructions on track using laser based imaging systems were shared.