

INTEGRAL COACH FACTORY, CHENNAI-38.

INAUGURATION

The Integral Coach Factory at Chennai is the first of its kind to be established after Independence for the manufacture of light weight, all steel and all welded “Integral” railway passenger coaches. The factory was set up in 1955 with Swiss collaboration.

PRODUCTION

ICF's initial plan was to produce 350 Broad Gauge Third Class shells (unfurnished body of the Railway Coaches) only, which were to be furnished by the Zonal Railways' Workshops. Later, in view of the severe limitation of capacity of the Railway Workshops and also to take advantage of mass production, a separate Furnishing Division was added on 2nd October, 1962. The capacity was progressively expanded from the initial 350 shells to 750 fully furnished coaches per annum by 1973-74 with additional inputs. This was enhanced to 850 coaches during 1986-87.

The production belt was modernised at a cost of Rs.63 Crores with a view to augment production to 1000 coaches per annum. During 1990-91, against a target of 1000 coaches, ICF turned out 1013 coaches.

DESIGN FEATURES

By design, the roof, side walls, end walls and the underframe are joined together by welding, to form a fully 'integral' coach shell. The end-wall construction has been made specially strong to make it anti-telescopic to ensure maximum safety to passengers.

From the basic design handed down by the collaborators, ICF has diversified having established its expertise and skill in this field, to design and manufacture more than 127 different types of coaches for Indian Railways and export market. Every time a new type of coach is launched, emphasis is laid on improving passenger comfort, passenger safety and higher speeds. ICF follows standard inspection procedures to ensure quality from raw material stage to the finished coach.

PRODUCT RANGE

ICF has been meeting the needs of the Indian Railways for varied types of coaches however sophisticated the type may be. Some of the important types are :

1. SELF PROPELLED

- Electric Multiple Units for suburban services in Metropolitan cities;
- Diesel Rail Cars;
- Metro Coaches for Calcutta underground Metro Railways;
- Diesel Electric Multiple Units & Diesel Hydraulic Multiple Units for non-electrified routes and Mainline Electric Multiple Units for long distance inter-city commutership.

2. AIRCONDITIONED & NON-AIRCONDITIONED PASSENGER CARS

- Airconditioned Sleeper Coaches of first & second class;
- Airconditioned Chair Cars of first and second class;
- Double Decker Coaches with seating capacity for 148 passengers as against the conventional 90 passengers.

3. SPECIAL COACHES

- Airconditioned & Non-airconditioned Pantry Cars

- High Capacity Power Cars for Shatabdi & Rajdhani Express Trains
- Airconditioned Military Ward Cars for Indian Army.
- Airconditioned Saloon Cars, Dining Cars of the luxurious Palace-on-Wheels train.

EXPORT

ICF's achievement on the export front have been enviable since its inception. Against stiff international competition from more advanced countries like Japan, etc., ICF secured several export orders most of which are repeat orders. So far, 359 bogies and 485 coaches including airconditioned coaches have exported to 11 Afro-Asian countries. ICF has bagged a number of awards for Export Excellence also.

DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

Complementing the existing design capacities and facilities, a fully computerised Design & Development Cell has been set up with sophisticated state-of-the art Computer designing facilities and testing equipments both for coach components and raw materials.

FOR BETTER TRAVEL

ICF has carved a niche in the Indian Railway system by constantly improving the 'quality of travel' through its passenger coach design which has undergone a sea-change from the days of bye-gone era of mere 'transport of passengers'. There has been a steady growth both in the quality and quantity of its production.

As a milestone in this endless travel, ICF has obtained the "ISO.9001" certificate for the quality systems from M/s.TUV, Germany. ICF is also on the anvil of implementing the total quality systems management in every sphere of its activity.

All this has been made possible through ICF's commitment to progress and improvement with its dedicated work force functioning in a contented atmosphere in pleasant surroundings and working conditions. Several welfare schemes like staff quarters, adequate clean water supply, improved medical facilities, encouragement in sports activities, etc., are provided.

FOR BETTER TRAVEL is our motto and we will continue to live up to it.