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Rlys rush to secure DP boxes on platform

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Nashik: The day after the TOI reported about the threat of open distribution points (ODP's) boxes on Nashik Road railway station platforms, the railway authorities have rushed to seal the boxes from the lower side to prevent mishap of any kind.

The TOI on Thursday carried the report on — Fires in distribution points at railway station spark queries, following which the Railway officers rushed to secure the open ends of DP boxes which allowed free run not only for rodents.

"These are the old DP boxes which have no protection from below. The two fire incidents reported on September 20 and September 24 were due to rodents nibbling the wires. We have now carried out the protection of the same by fitting the price of plywood to these boxes," the railway official said.

The DPs on the platform number 2 and 3 will also be sealed in the similar manner. "The sealing will now prevent any rat from entering the boxes thus preventing the chances of mishap due to them," the official said.

Two incidents of fire were reported at Nashik Road railway station on two different occasions. There were no casualties as in both the cases alter railway employees doused off the flames using fire extinguishers.

While maintenance staff carried out repairs of cables and blamed the rodents for the incident, the operations department launched mission 'rat-hunt' in which about 55 rodents were killed. But it raised the question as to why these old DP boxes were not sealed - just as the new ones.

Even commuters expressed fear of accidents because of open boxes. The DPs raised at about five feet in height from the ground - at times near the small sitting arrangements had an opening from the lower side. Through the wide opening it was quite possible a person or a child could accidentally put hand inside the box leading to a major mishap.