

## Roaches ride Lucknow Mail, viral video makes DRM act

Aditi Singh | TNN | Updated: Jul 31, 2019

LUCKNOW: A video clip showing cockroaches crawling all over an AC-III coach of Lucknow Mail has gone viral and prompted the Northern Railway authorities to terminate the contract of a private agency hired for pest control.

A government agency, Central Warehousing Corporation, has now been entrusted with the task.

The 34-second clip was recorded and tweeted by Dr Narinder Kaur on Sunday night on her way to New Delhi from Lucknow. Kaur who was originally booked in an AC-II coach played good Samaritan for a lady who had a reserved berth in AC-III. She was obviously unaware that the exchange of seats would prove to be a nightmare.

Twitter erupted over the video, with many passengers posting stinkers on their infamous railway journeys with roaches as well as rodents. The viral clip and posts prompted the official Twitter handle of Indian Railways Seva (passenger support) to forward Kaur's grievances to DRM of Northern Railway's Lucknow division.

"The complaint was attended to as soon as it came to our notice. We have terminated the licence of the previous agency and hired a government body, Central Warehousing Corporation, which is one of the best agencies to minimise the rodent problem," said DRM Sanjay Tripathi.

Nevertheless, several other travellers opened up to TOI about pest peril on trains. Banker Mehak Chaudhary said pest control happened only on paper. "There was this one time when I stayed awake all all night with a rat scurrying around under my seat," she recalled.