

(c) Monitoring is done by the colliery authorities. Railways have adequate liaison with them for the safety of railway tracks. As such monitoring technology is not used by the Railways directly for the purpose.

Tatkal scheme

263. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for issuing waitlisted tickets under tatkal scheme;
- (b) whether such a situation adversely affects the normal waitlisted ticketholders;
- (c) the percentage of berths reserved for tatkal scheme in trains, class-wise;
- (d) the measures taken to ensure that more than 10 per cent of total tickets in a train would not be kept under tatkal scheme; and
- (e) the reasons for not discontinuing the tatkal waitlisted tickets when there is no question of a revenue loss as tatkal tickets are non refundable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (e) The matter is under examination.

Quality of food in trains and at stations

264. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the quality of food served in trains and railway stations has been deteriorating day by day;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of complaints received in this regard during the last three years, zone-wise;
- (c) the action taken by Government on such complaints and the measures being taken to check the quality of food served in trains/stations;
- (d) whether any surprise checks are being conducted by a monitoring authority to check the quality of food items; and
- (e) the steps taken to improve the quality of food served in trains/stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (e) In view of the complaints received regarding quality of food served in trains and Railway Stations, the Catering Policy is under review.

Passenger amenities at stations in Orissa

265. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of upgraded railway stations of Orissa;
- (b) whether it is a fact that required passenger amenities and other facilities have not been given in all these stations; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Upgradation of railway stations is a continuous process. Out of 258 railway stations situated in the State of Orissa, there are 40 upgraded stations.

(b) Minimum Essential Amenities as per norms have already been provided at all railway stations in the State of Orissa.

(c) Does not arise.

Meeting of Advisory Committees

266. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that General Railways Advisory Committees, Divisional Railway Advisory Committees and Railways Users Committees at railway station level are not meeting regularly; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) All efforts are made to hold the meetings of Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committees (DRUCCs), Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committees (ZRUCCs) and Station Consultative Committees (SCCs) as per schedule. Due to various reasons such as delay in receipt of nomination from various organizations, administrative constraints and exigencies, sometimes, meetings are not held as per schedule.

Network of touts in Railways

267. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after computerisation there is a large network of touts operating in various major cities of the country;

(b) whether any such activities have come to the notice of her Ministry;

(c) what are the steps taken or are being taken to crack down on these touts;

(d) whether any arrest has been made in the last one year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) During the course of internal checks, some cases have come to notice.

(c) Regular checks are conducted in and around the railway reservation offices to curb the activities of touts and other anti-social elements. Surveillance at reservation offices is also stepped up during peak rush periods. Touts so apprehended are taken up as per provisions of law. Travelling public is educated through various media to desist from procuring tickets from unauthorized people. A number of steps as introduction of new/special trains, augmentation of carrying capacity/extension of existing trains have also been undertaken to increase availability