

(d) Does not arise.

Tatkal scheme

253. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL :
SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to cut the premium on talkal tickets and reduce its booking period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether premium on tatkal tickets is very high and Government proposes to reduce the amount; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to

(d) The matter is under review.

Introduction of pilgrimage express trains

254. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has plans to introduce pilgrimage express trains throughout the country at subsidized rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what efforts Railways have put in to promote pilgrimage tourism in the country, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a)

No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Facility for booking special trains by private parties is already in force on Indian Railways. Further, Special trains are run and trains are augmented to the extent feasible and justified to clear the extra rush of passengers during Kumbh Mela, Urs, Puja, Haj, Melas and other large festivals held in pilgrimage centers as per demand.

Cheaper food packets and mineral water at stations

255. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has any plan to introduce cheaper food packets at various railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is also considering providing mineral water to passengers at railway stations at subsidized rates; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Action has been initiated to increase easy availability of Janata Meals in trains and on platforms. The agency and modalities are under review.

(c) and (d) Potable water is available at Railway stations. Measures to further improve the quality of drinking water are underway.

Quality and quantity of food served in trains

256. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of complaints about quality and quantity of food served in the trains and the behaviour of catering staff;

(b) whether the mechanism provided to passengers for ready redressal of their grievances in the journey is inadequate; and

(c) what steps have been taken to improve grievance redressal system and to improve the quality of service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Catering Policy of the Indian Railways is under review.

Income and expenditure of railway zones

‡257. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any link between the incomes earned by the railway zones and the expenditures incurred thereon; and

(b) the details of the income earned by each zone and the expenditure incurred thereon under Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The zone wise Gross Earning and total Working Expenses during the Tenth five year plan are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Zone	Gross Earnings	Total Working Expenses
1	2	3
Central	26658.34	21719.74
Eastern	13125.35	18659.80
East Central	13404.56	11987.74
East Coast	14675.37	8541.72

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.