

- (b) whether any action has been taken against the Maoists by the Railways;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The numbers of incidents of sabotage suspected to have been perpetrated by the Left Wing Extremists during the years 2008 and 2009 were 21 and 41 respectively over Indian Railways.

(b) to (d) Policing on Railways is the duty of the State Governments concerned, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP). As such, maintenance of law and order and control of crime on Railways is the responsibility of the State Governments concerned. FIR has been lodged by the Railway authorities in the incidents against which, specific cases have been registered by the concerned Government Railway Police.

#### **Placement of doctors in Duronto Express**

1038. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to place doctors on board in Duronto Express;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government would also take initiative to place doctors in all long distance trains;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (e) Placing of doctors, in Duronto Express trains only has been started as a pilot project for a period of one year. The scheme envisages availability of one doctor and a paramedic on board, to deal with medical emergencies.

#### **Phasing out of IRCTC**

1039. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to phase out services of Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and handle catering services itself;
- (b) whether Government has also asked IRCTC to stop contract catering services of IRCTC to private licensees and shift to department canteen;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether it is also proposed to hire huge manpower to carry out the catering services; and