

(e) Railways have a huge throwforward of ongoing projects with limited availability of resources, as a result of which projects take long time in completion. This results into increase in cost of projects due to escalation and other reasons including change in standards of construction and technology, scope of the work and conditions of the areas etc. during the intervening period.

Sale of expiry date eatables at railway stations

1454. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that cakes, biscuits, beverages of expiry dates are being sold at railway stations in U.P. and Bihar;

(b) whether Government has received any complaints in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Setting up of new divisional HQs at Surat

1455. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal for establishing and setting up some new divisional railway headquarters, during the current financial year, zone-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether new railway divisional headquarter to be set up at Surat in Western Railway will include Bharuch-Valsad Vapi Nandurbar railway stations; and

(d) if so, the time by when this proposal to be considered?

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

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) There is no proposal to set up a new railway divisional headquarter at Surat in Western Railway.
- (d) Does not arise.

Online railway examination

†1456. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the plight of all the railway stations and trains because of conduct of examination on the same day across the country, Government is exploring any other alternative to get the recruitment exam for various posts in the railways conducted at various centres across country; and

(b) whether Government has any proposal for conducting these examinations online in view of recent scandals in the railway recruitment examinations?

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

(b) No, Sir. However, after receipt of reports of leakage of question papers, it has been decided to carry out technical audit of the system of examination.

Forged tatkal tickets

†1457. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of exposure of a scam a few days ago involving railway personnel in Jodhpur and Pali districts of Rajasthan making forged Tatkal tickets;

(b) the number of such cases have come before the department and the number of employees arrested in this connection and the action taken against them; and

(c) whether Government is going to take any concrete step so that the common passenger may avail the facilities of Tatkal Scheme?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.