

Catering service in trains

3014. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway Board has decided to take over management of all mobile catering services including kitchens due to rising complaints about poor food quality provided in railway stations and in trains;

(b) if so, whether Railway Board would set up mechanism to supervise all mobile catering services in stations and trains; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the new Catering Policy 2010 introduced w.e.f. 21.07.2010, Railways has sought to improve the quality of food served on trains / at the railway stations, through transfer of management of catering services from IRCTC to Zonal Railways. The Catering Policy 2010 has also emphasized supervision and monitoring through an institutional mechanism put in place by the Zonal Railways by deploying railway personnel, who would check quality and hygiene and take corrective action in a time-bound manner. Standard Bid Document would be redesigned to provide with adequate weightages for quality parameters.

Setting up of air-conditioned container factory

†3015. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is going to set up an air-conditioned container factory in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of amount likely to be spent by Government to set up this factory; and

(d) the time by when this factory would be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) It is proposed to set up a refrigerated container factory on a Public Private Partnership mode at

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Budge Budge. Various options are presently being explored and the Public Private Partnership model is yet to be finalised.

Rail link from Hoshiarpur to Pathankot

3016. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there exists a rail link from Hoshiarpur to Pathankot via Jalandhar;
- (b) whether there is a demand from the public at large to start DMU service from Hoshiarpur to Pathankot;
- (c) if so, by when it would get started; and
- (d) whether it is fact that no additional economic burden would be born, if this train is started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There exists a rail link from Hoshiarpur to Pathankot via Jalandhar and requests to start train services have been received. However, presently there is no proposal to introduce DMU service from Hoshiarpur to Pathankot.

(d) Running of any additional train depends upon availability of resources, manpower, operational feasibility and commercial justification.

Beautification of Ghaziabad railway station

3017. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan for beautification and upgradation of Ghaziabad/New Ghaziabad railway stations in the wake of Commonwealth Games, 2010;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is also aware that there is no sitting space for VIPs at the station;