

(a) whether Railways vide letter No. 2009/TGIII/461/3, dated 29 July, 2009, have decided that all new miscellaneous articles' stalls would not be permitted to sell eatables and beverages including packaged drinking water bottles, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the existing miscellaneous article stall contractors under Railways would be allowed to sell eatables and beverages including packaged drinking water, etc., after expiry of their existing agreement; and

(d) if so, the detailed reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI):
(a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Board has reviewed the Miscellaneous Articles Policy issued vide letter No. 2006/TGIII/461/3 dated 17th December, 2007 (Commercial Circular No. 96 of 2007) and advised vide letter No. 2009/TGIII/461/3 dated 29.07.2009 that permission for sale of eatables, beverages, including packaged drinking water, which was allowed through miscellaneous stalls has been withdrawn with prospective effect for all new contracts.

The existing valid contracts wherein commitments based on the policy guidelines vide Commercial Circular No. 96 of 2007 have been entered into are to continue with the facility as per contractual provisions.

Prevention of accidents due to human failure

2156. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in developing Anti-Collision Devices (ACDs) to prevent train accidents; and

(b) the details of other measures being adopted by Government to prevent train accidents due to 'human failure'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI):
(a) Deployment of ACD after initial trials was done on Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) covering 1736 Route Kms and 548 Locomotives. This was a single/double line non electrified Broad Gauge section. Based on the experience of NFR, to improve reliability and dependability of ACDs and to test its functioning on multiple lines as well as electrified routes, the specifications and design configuration were revised and the system as evolved was tried on the electrified multiple lines

automatic signalling section of the Southern Railway in 2010-2011. Operational and technical problems noticed in Southern Railway trials are being looked into and a new ACD Version- II after successful validation and certification will be deployed on NF Railway.

The ACD works have been sanctioned on Northeast Frontier, Eastern, East Central, East Coast, South Eastern, Southern, South Central and South Western Railways covering 8486 Route Kms, to expedite implementation of ACD version II, subsequent to successful validation & certification and deployment of improved ACD version II on NF Railway. The system is planned to be progressively provided on other Railways after this.

(b) Details of other measures being adopted to prevent railway accident due to human failure include Track Circuiting of stations to enhance safety by verification of track occupancy, Centralised Operation of points and signals with Interlocking Systems, Automatic clearance of Block Section using axle counters, Colour Light Signalling for better visibility of signals to Loco Pilots, Train Protection & Warning System on a pilot basis to avoid signal passing at danger and over speeding, modified Automatic Signalling to handle train operations safely during fog, Vigilance Control Devices on Locomotives to judge Loco Pilot's alertness, Simulator based training for improving driving skills and reaction time of Loco Pilots, Crew Management Systems in important crew lobbies for better monitoring of duty and rest hours of Loco Pilots, periodical training to staff etc.

Illegal sale of railway tickets

†2157. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of agencies/touts caught till date in a special drive conducted to stop illegal sale of railway tickets through ticket touts and unauthorised travel agencies active in a large number at railway stations;

(b) whether number of such touts and agencies are increasing day-by-day inspite of above drive;

(c) whether employees working at ticket counters are also involved in this racket; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.