

inspect the catering establishments, and also interact with the passengers on the trains to obtain a first hand knowledge of deficiencies observed with feed back from passengers. Due to intensive monitoring and supervision of Railways the number of complaints reported on catering have reduced substantially by 48.2%, since September, 2010 upto July, 2011, in comparison to the corresponding period of last year after the transfer of catering activities to Zonal Railways from Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). During the period September, 2010 to July, 2011, about 24164 inspections have been carried out by Zonal Railways for the improvement of catering services. Zonal Railways proactively take corrective action on the deficiencies and irregularities found during inspections. For providing hot and fresh food in important trains like Rajdhani/Duronto Express train, a Pantry car is attached to the train which has the facility to keep food fresh through deep freeze/refrigeration equipment; and to serve food hot they have food warmers and hot cases. This facility is also available in the pantry cars attached to a few important Mail/Express train.

For other trains, Train Side Vending facility is being gradually extended to provide satisfactory catering service to passengers. Policy guidelines for the arrangement of Train Side Vending (TSV) to provide good quality hygienic food to passengers in the trains in which pantry cars are not provided, have been issued to the Zonal Railways. Railways have also planned to construct and operate base kitchens at nominated points to provide hot and fresh food to the passengers.

Demand for train service

†2741. SHRI NARAYAN SINGH KESARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether broad gauge conversion on Delhi-Rewari-Neem-ka-Thana-Phulera route has already been completed two years back;

(b) whether any passenger or express train runs through this route during day time;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Chetak Express directly runs through Delhi-Rewari-Neem-ka-Thana-Reengus-Jaipur route;

(e) if so, the reasons why this train doesn't run daily and the actual running time of this train as this train mostly runs without passengers; and

(f) whether Railways propose to run direct train/restart passenger train during day time?

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) At present, one pair of passenger train is available on Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Rewari-Neem-ka-Thana and Phulera route during day time.

(d) to (f) At present, 12981/12982 Delhi-Udaipur City Chetak Express is running via Rewari-Neem-ka-Thana-Phulera-Ajmer route with the following timings.

12981 Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Udaipur City Chetak Express	Station	12982 Udaipur-Delhi Sarai Rohilla City Chetak Express
19.40 (Dep.)	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	05.10 (Arr.)
21.07 (Dep.)	Rewari	03.45 (Dep.)
22.33 (Dep.)	Neem-ka-Thana	01.46 (Dep.)
00.20 (Dep.)	Phulera	23.50 (Dep.)
07.50 (Arr.)	Udaipur	17.20 (Dep.)

The utilisation of reserved accommodation in 12981 was 89.4 % and of 12982 was 96.3 % during April'2010 to March'2011.

Daily running of 12981/12982 Delhi-Udaipur City Chetak Express has been announced in Railway Budget 2011-12.

22451/22452 Bandra-Chandigarh Express (weekly) announced in Railway Budget 2011-12 will be providing another day time service on Delhi-Rewari-Neem-ka-Thana-Phulera route.

Sale of additional items by miscellaneous articles'

contractors

2742. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently additional items like packed snacks/biscuits, beverages, rail neer and other approved BIS certified packed drinking water and chocolates etc. have been permitted for sale by miscellaneous articles' contractors at railway platforms;

(b) if so, the detailed reasons therefor;

(c) whether a number of requests have been received for permission for sale of above mentioned new items at the PCO/STD booths which are being operated by handicapped people; and

(d) if so, the action programme to help them?

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