

(d) if so, the steps Railways are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A New Catering Policy, 2010 has been introduced on 21.07.2010 with a detailed Quality Assurance Programme. As per this Policy, ISO-22000 Standards and relevant international standards in vogue will be implemented progressively for all major contracts/units. Further, Standard Bid Documents (SBD) for award of tenders for contract for provision of catering services on trains have been redesigned with stringent eligibility criteria with emphasis on quality and hygiene. A detailed waste management system has also been prescribed. Supervision and monitoring has been strengthened through regular inspections to check hygiene and take corrective action in a time-bound manner. Efforts are on to upgrade the skills of the staff and modernize catering units by inducting appropriate technology and methods so as to provide hygienic food in trains.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Regular inspections of base kitchens are done to supply hygienic food on trains. The New Catering Policy, 2010 also stipulates establishment of a grid of mega and medium base kitchens with latest state of the art technology to ensure hygienic food supplied in trains.

#### **Coach factory at Palakkad, Kerala**

2774. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are in talks with Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) on allowing BEML to set up ` 1,300 crore coach manufacturing factory at Palakkad, Kerala on nominations basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the move violates CVC norms on public procurement and runs contrary to Railways' previous strategy of developing the factory through Public-Private-Partnership;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Railways are also planning to make Government of Kerala a partner in this project in lieu of the 426 acre land to be allotted by the State; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) All options are being explored to set up a coach factory at Palakkad, Kerala.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) and (f) Shareholding pattern of Joint Venture to be formed for setting up this coach factory is under finalisation.

**Phaltan-Lonand railway line**

2775. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways had sanctioned the work of Phaltan-Lonand railway line in the year 1997-98;
- (b) if so, the progress of construction of the new railway line; and
- (c) by when the railway line would be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) Construction of new line from Phaltan-Lonand (27 km.) has been taken up as a part of Baramati-Lonand new line project. On this section, earthwork, bridges work, Rail Over Bridge/Rail Under Bridge, track linking, etc. have been completed. Residual works of ballasting, welding, etc. have been taken up. The section is likely to be completed by March, 2012.

**Shatabdi train from Delhi to Khajuraho**

†2776. SHRI GANGA CHARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways are contemplating to start a Shatabdi train from Delhi to Khajuraho in order to promote tourism in Bundelkhand, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of proposals submitted by Government of Uttar Pradesh to construct over bridges in Bundelkhand, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reasons for the delay in approving the proposals by Railways, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir. Introduction of new train service including Shatabdi train is an ongoing process subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility, availability of resources, etc.

(b) Uttar Pradesh Government has submitted proposals for construction of Road Over Bridge (ROB) in lieu of level crossing (i) No. 182 B km. 1240/8-9, Jhansi-Kanpur, (ii) 147 km. 1179/8-9, Jhansi-Kanpur and (iii) 454 km. 1318/7-8, Jhansi-Manikpur section. ROB's have been sanctioned in Railway works programme 2011-12. A proposal received for ROB in lieu of level crossing No. 497 km. 1387/7-8 is under examination.

(c) Does not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.