

(c) if not, whether the Ministry is willing to connect hilly gateways of the State, viz. cities leading to hilly areas like Tanakpur, Haldwani, Ramnagar, Kotdwar, Rishikesh and Dehradun by rail; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Details of each and every demand for railway projects received at various levels are not centrally maintained. As per available records, request has been received from the State Government of Uttarakhand for connecting Dehradun to Vikasnagar. Survey for Dehradun-Vikasnagar new line has been sanctioned.

(c) and (d) Hilly areas like Tanakpur, Haldwani, Ramnagar, Kotdwar, Rishikesh and Dehradun are already connected by existing rail network. Extension of rail network beyond Rishikesh upto Karanprayag has also been taken up.

**Sale of extra catering items of miscellaneous article stalls**

3055. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 747 given in the Rajya Sabha on 5 August, 2011 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the Ministry's letter No. 2011 TG-III/650/08 dated 23 May, 2011 and General Manager, Northern Railway's letter No. 85 AC/DLI/Misc/L/MP dated 4 May, 2012, the permission for the sale of extra catering items *i.e.* packed snacks, biscuits and beverages, Rail Neer and all other BIS certified packed drinking water, chocolates etc., has since been withdrawn from all the miscellaneous article stalls after expiry of their agreements on 18 January, 2012 in Delhi Division, Northern Railway; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The aforesaid letters are based on the instructions issued by Board dated 29.07.2009 which States that permission for sale of eatables, beverages including packaged drinking water bottles which was allowed through the miscellaneous stalls has been withdrawn with prospective effect for all new contracts. However, the existing contracts wherein commitments based on the policy guidelines *vide* Comm. Circular No. 96 of 2007 have been entered into are continued as per contractual provisions.