

Model railway stations in Madhya Pradesh

1681. DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria for declaring a railway station as a model railway station;
- (b) the number of stations in Madhya Pradesh presently fulfilling these criteria;
- (c) whether some of the railway stations have not been declared as model railway stations in Madhya Pradesh despite fulfilling these criteria; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) The 'Model Station' scheme was in vogue between June, 1999 and November, 2008. Initially, one station per Division of Indian Railways was selected under the scheme. In the year 2006, the criteria was revised to include all 'A' and 'B' category stations, on the basis of the annual passenger earnings, under the scheme.

(b) As per the categorization based on the annual passenger earnings of 2002-03, there were 15 'A' and 12 'B' category stations from the State of Madhya Pradesh. Accordingly, a total of 34 stations, including all the stations belonging to 'A' and 'B' category at that time from the State of Madhya Pradesh were identified for development under the 'Model Station' scheme.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Food served in trains

1682. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that after privatising the food vendors the quality of food served in trains has deteriorated;
- (b) the criteria adopted by Railways to select contractors supplying foods in trains and stations; and
- (c) the details thereof?