

(a) whether it is a fact that fares for the general class passengers have not been increased for the last many years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is formulating any action plan for increasing the fares for general class passengers so that they could be provided with better facilities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Passenger fares for Second Class Ordinary (both suburban and non-suburban) as well as second class Mail/Express have not been increased since 2002-03.

(c) and (d) Evaluation of various alternatives relating to rationalization of the fare structure is an ongoing process. Such exercises are yet exploratory in nature and do not constitute a systemic proposal for revision of fares.

Suggestions by MPs

1697. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details along with names of MPs whose suggestions were received during the last two years in Traffic/Commercial Department on the issue of catering stalls, book stalls, Curio miscellaneous article stalls and PCO/STD booths etc.;

(b) the final reply given on each suggestion and the details of the pending suggestions, if any;

(c) the details of Parliament assurances on the subject given during the aforesaid period and the details of their fulfilment; and

(d) the details of assurances still pending on each subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Details of references received from Hon'ble Members of Parliament (MPs) regarding suggestion made by them on the policy matters pertains to Catering policy 2010, Book stall policy 2004, Curio/Miscellaneous Article stall policy, 2007 and PCO/STD booths, 2000 etc are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of MP	Letter date	Suggestions	Replied on
1	2	3	4	5
1	(i) Dr. Arvind Kumar Sharma,	01.03.2011	Permission for the sale of misc. items from catering stalls.	14.11.11
	(ii) S/Shri Bibhu Prasad Tarai,	25.02.11		27.07.11
	(iii) P. Lingam,	28.02.11		13.06.11
	(iv) R.C. Singh,	28.02.11		01.06.11
	(v) P.R. Natarajan,	07.03.11		23.05.11
	(vi) Abani Roy,	—		23.05.11
	(vii) K. Sugumar,	07.03.11		23.05.11
2	Sh. R. C. Singh	26.08.11-	Conversion of trolley into stalls by adopting the same procedure as in the misc. stall policy.	14.05.12
3	Sh. Mukesh B. Gadhvi	26.08.11	Removal of order for ban of eatables on platforms. readymade	14.09.11
		26.08.11		17.01.12
4	Sh. Brajbhushan Sharan Singh	30.08.11	Non-conversion of catering stalls into modular stall at D,E,F category station.	30.08.11

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5	Sh. P.K. Biju	19.09.11	Withdrawal of ban on train side vending	27.08.11
6.	Sh. Ambeth Rajan	14.09.11 23.09.11	Extension of reservation policy of Govt, of India to allotment of catering units.	13.04.12
7.	Sh. Kamlesh Paswan Sh. Brajbhushan Sharan Singh	18.09.11 25.08.11	Request for continuous sale of catering items through misc. article stalls.	18.08.12
8	Sh. Azeez Pasha Sh. Prabodh Panda Sh. M.P. Achuthan Sh. P. Lingam	29.12.11- 22.12.11- 29.12.11- 22.12.11-	Withdrawal of permission for sale of eatables and beverages including packaged drinking water bottles from misc. article stalls	12.11.12
9	S/Sh. P.C. Chacko & 23 other MPs	28.3.12	Vending passes	Reply has been sought from Zonal Railways
10	Shri Anandrao Adsul,	14.11.2011	Allotment of PCO booth	12.09.2012
11	Shri Vikram Maadan,	03.01.2012	Renewal of PCO booth contract	20.03.2012
12	Shri Arjun Modhwadia,	18.11.2011	Renewal of PCO booth contract	20.03.2012
13	Dr. Shashi Panja,	02.02.2012, 18.05.2012	Change the nature of business of PCO booth	20.06.2012

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1	2	3	4	5
14	Dr. Manohar Joshi,	16.03.2011	Increase the reservation quota, etc.	21.04.2011
15	Shri Tariq Anwar,	26.09.2011	Permission to sell miscellaneous items from PCO booth	14.05.2012
16	Dr. Nirmal Khatri,	16.12.2010	Shifting of PCO Booth	19.06.2012
17	Ms. Rama Devi,	23.08.2012	Allotment of PCO booth under PH category	04.10.2012

Suggestions which are under examinations

1	Sh. Prabodh Panda	18.01.11, 06.04.11, 23.08.11	Restoration of the catering units of evicted small stall holders/vendors, reduction of vending trolleys on platforms, permission of all sorts of items on small minor static units, modification in the yardstick for allotment of minor static catering units, transfer of the license of minor static units in the event of death of licensee belonged to GMU to their legal heir at par	A few suggestions have been incorporated in new catering policy 2010.
	Sh. Syed Azeez Pasha	06.04.11, 05.01.12		
	Sh. Brijbhushan Sharan Singh	13.04.11 20.04.11		

			with SMU, permission of cooking of food on the platform taking into consideration all safety measure, revision of tariff of food price sold at the static units and constitution of a Consultative Committee comprising the railway official and representatives of the various associations of catering license holders.	
2	Sh. Ashok Argal,	11.02.11 25.03.11 & 11.04.11	Stop tender process for allotment of catering stalls	A new Misc. Article Policy has been issued on 02.11.12 wherein renewal has been granted to all the operationalised misc. article stalls licensees.
3	Sh. Bhagat Singh Koshiari	22.02.11	Except fruit, all catering vending items should be sold on commission vendors stalls.	Under examination

1	2	3	4	5
4	Sh. Virbhadra Singh	22.03.11	Allotment of catering vending contracts to railway vendors society	Under examination
5	Sh. Prabodh Panda Sh. Brajbhushan Sharan Singh,	26.04.11 11.04.11	Cancellation of expression of interest for allotment of pantry car by calling short term notice.	Under examination
6	Sh. Prabodh Panda Sh. M.P. Achuthan Sh. Vibhu Prasad Tarai Dr. Arvind Kr. Sharma Sh. Bhagat Singh Koshiari Sh. Ananad Pranjpe Sh. P. Lingam Sh. T.E. Ismail Sh. Tara Chand Bhagora Sh. Ganesh Rao Dudhgaonkar Sh. Kishanbhai V.Patel	24.04.12 25.04.12 27.04.12 26.04.12 02.05.12 03.05.12 27.04.12 02.05.12 10.05.12 11.05.12 Dt. Nil	Management of bookstalls over the railways.	The bookstall policy, 2004 is subjudice before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India since 2005.
7	Sh. Radha Mohan Singh & 17 other MPs	14.05.12	Remedial action for the upliftment of mobile catering services over IR viz. revision of tariff of meal and other items in Rajdhani/Shatabdi and Mail/Express trains.	Under examination.
8	Sh. Prabodh Panda	26.04.11	Cancellation of expression of interest	Under examination

	Sh. Brajbhushan Sharan Singh,	11.04.11	for allotment of pantry car by calling short term notice.	
9	Sh. Prabodh Panda	29.6.12	Permission to sell additional items at fruit/juice stall.	Under examination
10	Sh. Premchand Guddu	01.8.12	Implementation of reservation for allotment of refreshment room/stalls to the backwards.	Under examination
11	Shri G.R. Koli,	22.07.2011, 10.07.2012	Allotment of PCO booth	Under examination
12	Shri Sarada Mohanty,	11.07.2012	Allotment of PCO booth	Under examination
13	Shri Rudra Madhab Ray,	18.07.2012	Allotment of PCO booth	Under examination
14	Shri Tarachand Bhagora,	03.08.2012	Allotment of PCO booth	Under examination
15	Shri Prabodh Panda,	22.08.2012	Permission to sell miscellaneous items and renewal of contract	Under examination
16	Shri Vijay Bahuguna,	02.02.2012	Extension of STD/PCO booth contract	Under examination
17	Shri Satpal Maharaj,	01.02.2012	Extension of STD/PCO booth contract	Under examination
18	Dr. Tushar A. Chaudhary,	09.12.2010	Extension of STD/PCO booth contract	Under examination
19	Shri Uma Sankar Singh,	26.04.2012	Renewal of PCO booth contract	Under examination
20	Dr. Tarun Mandal,	23.02.2012	Reduction of land license fee etc.	Under examination

Certain suggestions like allowing restricted cooking on platforms, grant of renewal of license to the legal heir of General Minor Units (GMUs) for both general and reserved category etc. fixation of licence fee of Minor Static catering units and renewal to these units etc. have been incorporated in the Catering Policy, 2010. After due consideration a new Miscellaneous Article Policy, 2012 has been issued on 02.11.2012. The Bookstall Policy, 2004 is subjudice since 2005 before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and status quo is being maintained in all book stall contracts.

(c) and (d) A few assurances are pending only on matters where data/information are to be collected and complied from the zonal railways.

Vacant railway land

†1698. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large area of railway land in various railway zones, particularly in backward and rural areas of the country is lying vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof, railway zone-wise, as on date, particularly with reference to the backward and rural areas;

(c) the details of the land lying vacant and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government proposes to allocate the vacant railway land to poor people on lease;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (c) Indian Railway network occupies a land area measuring about 10.65 lakh acres. Ninety per cent of this land is directly under railway tracks, yards, workshops and allied infrastructure. The vacant land, measuring about 1.13 lakh acres is mostly in the form of a narrow strip along tracks which railways have been utilizing, or plan to utilize, for its expansion in the form of doubling, third line, quadrupling, gauge conversion, freight corridors, yard remodelling, traffic facility works, workshops, etc. for servicing and maintenance of track, commercial development, wherever feasible and other rail related infrastructure.

Zone wise details of vacant land are given in the Statement (*See below*).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.