Drinking water in trains and at platforms

†1392. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to improve the condition of badly maintained toilets and contaminated drinking water at all railway platforms in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the mineral water bottles being supplied in the trains are also of substandard quality and ants have been found in them; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Maintenance/improvement of amenities including toilets at stations and platforms is a continuous process. Arrangements for drinking water have been made at all the stations on Indian Railways. Water is suitably treated as per requirement to make it fit for drinking purpose. Corrective action is taken whenever shortfall/problem is noticed during inspections or reported through public complaints.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Only Rail Neer and other BIS (Bureau of Indian Standard) approved packaged drinking water having requisite laid down standards as shortlisted by Zonal Railways, are permitted for sale in the trains. Frequent checks are being conducted to ensure approved brands, quality and hygiene. Discrepancies found by the Railways are dealt with suitably under FSSA (Food Safety and Standard Authority of India) Act.

Directions for use of MPLADS funds

†1393. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some special directions have been issued for the use of MPLADS funds;

(b) if so, the details of the drawbacks noticed in their implementation;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up a monitoring system for use of the said fund;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether it is a fact that some blacklisted companies have started working again; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The Members of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) Scheme is governed by the MPLAD Scheme Guidelines prescribed by the Central Government. The Scheme's implementation in the field is undertaken by the District Authorities under the State Governments in accordance with the State Government's financial, technical and administrative rules. On the basis of experience, feedback from stakeholders and advice of Parliamentary Committees, etc., modifications/revisions in the MPLAD Scheme Guidelines are carried out from time to time.

(c) Monitoring mechanisms have been prescribed in the MPLAD Scheme Guidelines, wherein the roles of the Parliamentary Committees, Central Government, State Governments, District Authorities and Implementing Agencies are laid down.

(d) and (e) The Implementing Agencies are selected by the District Authorities. Data on Implementing Agencies against whom action has been taken, including blacklisting, is not maintained centrally by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Complaints of MPs regarding sanctioning of proposals under MPLADS

1394. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaint letters of Hon'ble MPs received by the Ministry regarding not sanctioning of proposals under MPLADS in District Gautam Buddh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the action taken on these letters;

(c) how much time would be taken by Gautam Buddh Nagar District Administration to sanction these proposals under MPLADS; and

(d) whether the Ministry has issued any instruction/direction to the concerned authorities in this regard?