

Funds allocated to Tamil Nadu

276. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds allocated to Tamil Nadu, project-wise, during this financial year; and

(b) how much funds are lying unutilised alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Projects are not sanctioned State-wise. However, an outlay of Rs.826.45 crore has been provided for new line, gauge conversion and doubling projects falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu.

Utilization of funds takes place throughout the year and funds remaining unutilized would be known only after completion of the year.

Food served in trains

†277. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite increasing the fares of Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains, there is reduction in the quantity of food served in these trains and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government considers it rational, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) The menu and tariff of Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Duronto express trains is included in the ticket fare and have been recently revised on 09.10.2013. The rationale for this revision is largely due to the fact that the menu and tariff had not been revised since 1999 whereas the cost of raw material, Wholesale Price Index (WPI), index cost of services have increased manifold. Also with a view to provide variety *vis-a-vis* cost and to reduce wastage, certain items like salad, one teabag, fruit juice etc. have been curtailed from the menu while food items/quantity like flavoured milk, honey sachets etc. have been added. The emphasis is on quality and not only on quantity.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.