

5. Extra vigil is kept on movement of suspicious characters in the Godowns and Yards.

Norms for providing hygienic food in trains

3062. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to set norms for providing hygienic food in trains, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that base kitchens, from where the food is supplied to the trains, are not hygienic, if so, the steps Government is taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. It is a continuous endeavour by the Indian Railways to provide good quality hygienic food to Railway passengers. A detailed quality assurance programme has been defined in the New Catering Policy. To improve the quality of catering services in the trains, a mechanism for monitoring and supervision has been put in place by deploying railway personnel, who check quality and hygiene through regular, surprise and periodical inspections and take corrective action. In addition, regular passenger satisfaction surveys are also conducted. Catering Services Monitoring Cell with a toll free number 1800-111-321 at national level has been set up for real time redressal of complaints.

(b) No, Sir. To ensure that food supplied from base kitchens is hygienic, steps taken include (i) a transparent contract awarding, management and monitoring procedure has been laid down wherein modern and mechanized base kitchens are to be setup on the railway premises, (ii) Detailed Hygiene and Quality Parameters have been laid down in the Standard Bid Document (SBD) which define the procedures for procurement of raw materials, storage of food, preparation procedures, holding of cooked food, packaging of food, food equipments, avoidance of cross-contamination of food, kitchen structure, staff training, disposal of wastes in kitchens, personal hygiene, guidance for food handlers, in-house audit etc. (iii) The base kitchens are to be approved and supervised by the Railways and are to have ISO-22000 certification, (iv) Third Party Audit has been made a part of the Standard Bid Document (SBD) so as to strengthen the monitoring of catering services.

High Speed Rail Project

3063. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any High Speed Rail Project has been initiated by Railways;

(b) if so, the infrastructure requirement for such a project;