

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Transportation capacity augmentation, improvement of services including their quality and safety of passengers are all priority areas of the Railways.

(b) No, Sir. However, at major stations, Indian Railways have outsourced cleanliness related activities like mechanized cleaning, rag picking, garbage disposal, one time cleanliness etc. on contract basis to improve the cleanliness standards at railway stations. Public toilets at major stations have been brought under the 'Pay & Use' scheme with the participation of the private sector.

**Measures taken following elephant deaths on railway tracks in North Bengal**

2319. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures taken following the rise in deaths of elephants on railway tracks in North Bengal;
- (b) the funds allocated for diversion of trains away from elephant corridors; and
- (c) the time-line for completion of diverted railway tracks in vulnerable spots of elephant corridors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The measures taken to curb the elephant deaths on railway tracks in North Bengal include imposition of speed restrictions, clearance of vegetation on the side of railway track, provision of signage boards to pre-warn the train drivers, sensitizing train Drivers and Guards, keeping railway track free from food waste that attracts elephants, flow of communication from forest official to railway control, construction of under passes between Chalsa and Nagrakata station, construction of two ramps between Madarihat and Hasimara station, construction of girder bridge between Gulma and Sevok station to prevent the entry of elephants into deep cuttings, rail fencing between Sevok and Bagrakot station etc.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to divert railway tracks in vulnerable spots of elephant corridors. As such, no funds have been allocated for such purpose.

**Receipt for sale of food stuff in trains**

2320. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pantry car staff overcharge for food and drinking stuff provided to the sleeper class passengers in trains, especially in North East Frontier (NF) and North Eastern (NE) Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is considering to provide receipt for sale of food stuff in trains, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Food in trains is sold as per rates notified by the Railways. On Northeast Frontier (NF) and North Eastern (NE) Railway, about 90 cases of complaints of overcharging have been reported during the last one year (*i.e.* 01.12.2013 to 30.11.2014). Action has been taken on the licensees including imposition of fines.

(c) Instructions exist with the zonal railways to ensure issue of receipt (electronic/ printed) for sale of food to the passengers of Mail/Express trains. Monitoring is done through surprise and periodical inspections conducted by zonal railways.

#### **Construction of another railway line from Saharanpur to Dehradun**

†2321. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government considers that the frequency of trains to Dehradun has increased now;

(b) whether Government is also aware that the operation of trains to Dehradun is still being done in an old fashioned way;

(c) if so, whether Railways consider it necessary to construct another railway line from Saharanpur to Dehradun in the present context; and

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in construction of another railway line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) In the last few years, train connectivity to Dehradun has increased and at present, 19 pairs of train services, including prestigious services like Shatabdi Express, AC Express and Jan Shatabdi Express etc., serve Dehradun station and connect Dehradun, *inter-alia*, with important stations like Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Varanasi, Mumbai etc.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.