

Performance of the contractors engaged for cleaning trains are being monitored and evaluated as per the laid down Test Check protocols. Suitable penal action is initiated against the contractors wherever deficiency is noticed.

(d) and (e) Garbage generated in On-Board Housekeeping Services (OBHS) covered trains is collected in polybags by the OBHS staff. These polybags are sealed with rubber band and are handed over to the Carriage and Wagon representative at nominated enroute station. Garbage is also collected from trains and disposed off at nominated place during scheduled maintenance in coaching depots.

Detailed instructions regarding waste management have been issued to zonal Railways for prompt disposal of waste arising out of catering services at stations and in trains in order to maintain hygiene and cleanliness at all catering units. It has, *inter-alia*, been stipulated that “the refuse bins (with three colours) so nominated are to be prominently painted in Green (for Bio-degradable waste), White (for recyclable waste) and Black (all other waste *i.e.* other than bio-degradable waste and recyclable waste) of sufficient size to ensure all collections.

#### **Reservation against the letters by MPs**

†2676. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of years for which the Reservation Officers and staffs have remained posted in the reservation cell working under the Minister of Railways and the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for which the reservation officers/staff tear off the letters sent by the MPs or they don't provide reservation against the letters sent by them;

(c) whether action is taken against the concerned staff on written complaints from MPs for not providing reservations to persons recommended by them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) There is no post of Reservation Officer in the office of Minister of Railways. Out of the total 13 staff dealing with VIP requests in the office of Minister of Railways, 3 employees have been working for the last 1 year, 4 have been working for last one and a half years, 1 for the last 3 years and 5 for last 5 years.

(b) to (d) Emergency quota in Board's office is released by nominated officers/staff after following the prescribed procedure. No case of tearing off the letters

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

sent by MPs has been reported. However, in case any staff/officer is found indulging in any malpractice, rules provide for initiating action under the Railway Servant (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1968.

### **Darjeeling Himalayan Railway**

2677. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Darjeeling Himalayan Railway is not running the full 87 kilometres from New Jalpaiguri to Darjeeling due to damaged or non-existent tracks;

(b) whether Darjeeling Himalayan Railway could be declared an endangered World Heritage Site by UNESCO, should the tracks not be repaired; and

(c) if so, the funds allocated for repair of tracks and the status of repair of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway and other Heritage Railway lines in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Presently, train service has been running from Siliguri Junction to Darjeeling. New Jalpaiguri is a broad-gauge station close to Siliguri Junction and is not connected to Darjeeling Himalayan Railway line.

(b) and (c) The tracks have been fully repaired and train services are running. As such, the question of Darjeeling Himalayan Railway as 'endangered' World Heritage Site by UNESCO does not arise.

### **Robberies in express trains**

2678. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of robberies that have taken place during last two years in various express trains, including the one that happened in the Chennai bound Tamil Nadu Express on 26th February, 2015;

(b) the details of the progress made in the robbery cases;

(c) whether Government has formulated any comprehensive plan to curb the menace of robberies in trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The number of robberies that have taken place in various