

Change in the timings of New Delhi-Dehradun Janshatabdi Express

†2190. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to change the timings of the New Delhi-Dehradun Janshatabdi Express train No. 12055/12056 from October to March (winter period) in view of convenience of the common passengers;

(b) whether it has been considered to increase the speed of the train and make the departure time of Delhi-Dehradun Janshatabdi Express at 3.00 p.m. and Dehradun-Delhi Janshatabdi Express at 5.30 a.m., so that the passengers residing in the rural areas of Dehradun may avail this facility; and

(c) if so, by when it will be implemented, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Allowing private companies for catering services at stations and in trains

2191. SHRI K. N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the decision of IRCTC to introduce drinking water on payment basis at all railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways are planning to introduce private companies for catering services at stations and in trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) With a view to augment availability of clean drinking water at affordable prices to passengers, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has been entrusted the task of providing Water Vending Machines (WVMs) at stations. IRCTC has completed the process of shortlisting agencies which would in a phased manner, supply, install, operate and maintain 4615 Water Vending Machines to begin with.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.