

(c) and (d) In terms of Catering Policy 2010, catering services, at stations and in trains, are provided by Zonal Railways/IRCTC either departmentally or through private licensees. In addition, e-catering services have recently been launched through IRCTC, initially on a pilot basis for one year. At present, e-catering services are to encompass 1482 trains that are running without pantry cars. Passengers can book their choice of meals either on the website of IRCTC directly or on phone/SMS.

Stoppage of all trains running from Dehradun at Raiwala

†2192. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether trains are only available at Dehradun or Haridwar for lakhs of pilgrims, tourists and other travellers doing Char Dham Yatra in Uttarakhand;

(b) whether Government is considering a one minute stoppage of all trains running from Dehradun at Raiwala railway station, between Haridwar and Rishikesh for the convenience of lakhs of pilgrims, tourists and other travellers for the Ardha Kumbh Mela next year and also for the Char Dham Yatra to start from April-May, 2016; and

(c) if so, by when the passenger will get stoppage facility at Raiwala railway station, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Raiwala station is presently being served by 7 pairs of Express trains and 06 pairs of Passenger trains which are considered adequate for the present level of traffic. Stoppage of all trains at Raiwala station is not feasible at present due to operational constraints. However, temporary stoppage of trains are provided as and when required keeping in view the extra rush of passengers on the occasions of fairs and festivals, subject to operational feasibility.

Study report on running bullet train between Mumbai-Ahmedabad

†2193. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has received a study report for running bullet train between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, if so, the details thereof and Ministry's approach on the study report;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the Ministry will find a way for deciding an affordable fare of bullet train for all the citizens of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Final report of joint feasibility study for Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed corridor, co-financed by Indian Railways and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been received by Ministry of Railways in July 2015. The completion cost of 505 km long high speed line is estimated at approximately ₹ 98,000 crore. The report has details on possible alignment, terminals, station location, other technical specifications and different funding options required to implement the project. Fares for such services are dependent on project cost, financial viability, willingness and capability of passengers to pay along with extent and possibility of Government support.

Special leave and passes to employees for learning Yoga

†2194. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously contemplating to provide separate special leaves and passes to railway employees for learning yoga;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps in this regard so far and the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Ministry of Railways have issued instructions for providing one Special Pass and 9 days of Special Casual Leave (inclusive of journey time), once in a calendar year, to any willing employee for participating in any Meditation/Yoga/Spiritual programme.

Illegal encroachment on Railways' Land

†2195. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the zone-wise details of illegal encroachment on Railways' land at present;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.