

(xiii) Booking of these trains is allowed from reservation counters as well as through internet.

(xiv) These trains are called 'Special Trains'.

(c) These services have already become operational in May, 2015.

Incentives to private sector for opening food parks

*48. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to open Food Parks to control wastage of food, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the process has since been initiated, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether certain incentives are proposed to be given to the private sector entities, who show interest in this initiative, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL): (a) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has been implementing Mega Food Park Scheme (MFPS) since Eleventh Five Years Plan to create modern infrastructure facilities for the food processing along the value chain from the farm to the market with a cluster based approach based on a hub and spokes model. It includes creation of infrastructure for primary processing and storage near the farm at Primary Processing Centres (PPCs) and Collection Centres (CCs) and common facilities and enabling infrastructure like roads, electricity, water, ETP facilities etc. at Central Processing Centre (CPC). The Scheme also aims to provide a mechanism to bring together farmers, processors and retailers and link agriculture production to the market so as to ensure maximization of value addition, minimization of wastages and improving farmers' income.

(b) Ministry has so far accorded approval to 40 (Forty) Mega Food Parks (MFPs) in five phases in the country for creation of modern infrastructure for food processing industries. Out of these, 23 Mega Food Parks have been accorded final approval and are in different stages of implementation. The remaining 17 Mega Food Parks have been accorded In-principle approval and are in the process of meeting the conditions of final approval.

(c) Under the Mega Food Park Scheme, financial assistance is provided in the form of grant-in-aid @ 50 per cent of the eligible project cost in general areas and @75 per cent of eligible project cost in difficult and hilly areas *i.e.* North-East

Region including Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and TDP notified areas subject to a maximum of ₹ 50 crore per project. The Private Sector/State Government/State Government entities/Cooperatives are eligible for availing financial assistance under the scheme.

**Implementation of recommendations of committee
set up for restructuring of Railways**

*49. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee was set up for restructuring of Railways, and if so, whether the Committee has submitted its final report recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government for implementation of the recommendations;

(d) by when these recommendations will be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Committee, headed by Dr. Bibek Debroy, which was set up in September, 2014 for *inter-alia*, restructuring of Railways submitted its final Report in June, 2015. The report contains various recommendations on reforms and restructuring including:-

- Changes in Human Resources
 - Railway Board to function like Corporate Board for IR.
 - Reorganise Group 'A' services into two streams – Logistics and Technical.
 - Empowerment of GMs and decentralization of powers to DRMs.
 - Separation of off-line activities such as Medical, Schools and Security.
 - Zonal Construction Organisations to be brought under one or more PSUs.
 - Lateral inflow of talent from outside in technical and non-technical departments.
 - Manning of A-1 and A category stations with ex-cadre gazetted officers.