

The increase of speed of Rajdhani Express and Shatabdi Express trains above the existing speeds requires study of inputs/improvements required to be effected to infrastructure *i.e.* track etc.

Track Renewal is a continuous activity which is undertaken as and when a stretch of track becomes due for renewal on age cum condition basis *i.e.* on the basis of traffic carried over the track and physical condition of track.

All the railway bridges including those on Rajdhani and Shatabdi routes are inspected regularly as per the laid down inspection schedule. Necessary action for repair/strengthening/rehabilitation/rebuilding of the bridges is undertaken whenever so warranted by their physical condition as ascertained during these inspections. In so far as increasing in speed is concerned, the bridges are assessed for their suitability depending upon the magnitude of speed and accordingly necessary action for strengthening/rehabilitation/rebuilding is undertaken, if required.

Food stalls and trollies operating on the railway stations

†1401. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of departmental food stalls/trollies operating on the stations of North Eastern Railway, before IRCTC started operating eating joints at railway stations;

(b) whether IRCTC is operating eating joints on all those small stations of North Eastern Railway, where earlier there was an arrangement of departmental foodstalls/trollies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) On North Eastern Railway, 72 departmental food units (18 stalls, 50 trollies, 2 Apurva Bhojnalya, 1 Apurva Ulpahaar and 1 Fast Food Corner) were operated before Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) started operating eating joints at Railway stations.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) As per extant Catering Policy 2010, all catering units at small stations are to be managed by Zonal Railways while IRCTC is to be primarily responsible for running Food Plaza, Food Court and Fast Food units etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.