

E-catering facilities in trains

765. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to make available e-catering facilities in a number of trains at 45 stations across the country, if so, the details in this regard;

(b) the details of stations selected for this purpose; and

(c) how does Government proposes to monitor quality, quantity and issues of hygiene of the food under e-catering facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) In order to widen the range of food options available to passengers, E-catering services have been introduced, through Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) in trains without pantry car or Train Side Vending as well as on 45 designated stations from where passengers of originating/passing trains can avail of this facility. The details of stations selected for this purpose are as follows:- Howrah, Sealdah, Guwahati, New Jalpaiguri, Patna, Bhubaneshwar, Visakhapatnam, Mughalsarai Junction (Jn.), Kanpur Central, Lucknow Jn., Varanasi, Jaipur, Bilaspur, Kharagpur, Allahabad, Gorakhpur, Anand Vihar Terminal, Hazarat Nizamuddin, New Delhi, Delhi, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Secunderabad, Tirupati, Vijayawada, Chennai Central, Chennai Egmore, Ernakulam Jn., Kozhikkode, Madurai Jn., Thrisur, Tiruvananthapuram Central, Bangalore City, Yasvantpur, Nagpur, Pune, Agra Cantt., Gwalior, Jhansi, Bhopal, Ahmedabad Mumbai Central, Surat & Vadodara. IRCTC has tied up with renowned, reputed and established brands in the field of catering services so that the passengers can order good quality and hygienic food of their choice. Further, Janta Khana is also being made available through E-catering services.

Eliminating unmanned level crossings

766. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are going to miss the target of eliminating 10,797 Unmanned Level Crossings (ULCs) during the Twelfth Five Year Plan by huge margin, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that 40 per cent of accidents and 60 per cent of fatalities are accounted for by ULCs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Railways to gear up its efforts in eliminating the ULCs by paying focussed attention to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Ministry of Railways has decided to progressively eliminate all unmanned level crossings by Closure/Merger/Provision of Subways/Manning. Accordingly, 3,933 unmanned level crossings have been eliminated since the start of 12th Five Year Plan. Indian Railway endeavours for elimination of remaining unmanned level crossings subject to availability of funds, which comes from Central Road Fund (CRF) as a percentage of the cess collected on petrol and diesel by Ministry of Finance. The average annual allocation to Railways from Central Road Fund is ₹ 1,100 crore against the throwforward of 31,700 crore.

(b) 38.9 % of the total consequential train accidents, involving 53.4% of the total fatalities, have occurred at unmanned level crossings in the last three years (2012-2015) and in current year (upto 15th Nov., 2015).

(c) To address the issue of constraints of funds, Ministry of Railways has approached Ministry of Finance for enhanced allocation of funds.

Setting up of captive nuclear power plants

767. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have decided to set up captive nuclear power plants to meet the rising demand of energy for train operations as well as reducing its power bills;

(b) whether the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) has been approached for setting up captive nuclear power plants, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the move will help cash-strapped Railways which spent ₹ 8000 crore on electricity bills and ₹ 15,000 crore on diesel during the last fiscal, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, preliminary discussions were held with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) for exploring the possibility of setting up of a nuclear power plant in Joint Venture.

(c) Does not arise.