

Probe of railway employees

1565. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that several railway employees are being probed for allowing private firms to supply water bottles in the trains, if so, the details thereof including the loss incurred to the State exchequer;
- (b) the details of the railway employees and private firms alleged to be involved in the said scam;
- (c) the details of trains in which such private firms were being allowed to supply water; and
- (d) the steps taken by Railways to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against two railway officials and eight private caterers under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 regarding the supply of packaged drinking water other than the prescribed 'Rail Neer' in Rajdhani/Shatabdi trains in Northern Railway. The identified officials have been placed under suspension.

(c) and (d) The catering licensees were supplying packaged drinking water other than the prescribed 'Rail Neer' in Shatabdi/Rajdhani/Duronto trains. With a view to preventing such incidents in future, it has been decided to make payments directly to Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation for supply of Rail Neer packaged drinking water in Shatabdi/Rajdhani/Duronto trains.

Hefty profits in Rail Neer water bottles

†1566. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many companies were earning hefty profits in preparing Rail Neer water bottles with the support of senior officers which was revealed a few days ago;
- (b) if so, the action taken by Railways in this regard so far;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the maximum total cost of one litre bottled water is ₹ 5 per bottle;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and
- (e) if not, whether Government has done any exercise in this regard, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) “Rail Neer” is the brand name of the Packaged Drinking Water (PDW) manufactured by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is presently investigating a matter concerning supply of other than the mandated Rail Neer brand of PDW to passengers of Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains etc., in case number RC-32(A)/2015-DLI registered by it in October, 2015 against Railways’ catering licensees and officials. The two railway officials named as accused in the above mentioned CBI case have been placed under suspension.

(c) to (e) IRCTC’s average cost of one litre bottle of “Rail Neer” is ₹ 9.60 and its transfer price for supplies made in locations within 75 kms. Of the manufacturing plant is ₹ 10.00 and beyond that distance is ₹10.50.

Insufficient platform length at Godavari railway station

1567. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways are aware that passengers are forced to jump out to get down from the train and climb to get into the train due to insufficient platform length at Godavari railway station in Rajahmundry;
- (b) if so, the reasons for not altering the platform despite knowledge of the problem; and
- (c) the corrective steps taken by Railways to solve the problem and to extend the length of the platform?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) At Godavari railway station, the length of platform no.1 is 610 meters which can accommodate 26 coaches. Hence there is no inconvenience to passengers for entrain and detrain, as the platform length is sufficient. The length of platform no.2 is 330 meters with insufficient length due to sand hump point no. 5A and 5B and Road Under Bridge no. 249 ‘A’, which is 50 meters ahead followed by 3rd Godavari Bridge (on the river Godavari) towards Vijayawada end. On Vishakhapatnam end Bridge no. 250 Road Over Bridge is at end of platform. Hence, the extension of length of Platform