

(b) the States that have not implemented the stock limit on storage of pulses since 2012; and

(c) whether any action is being taken by Government against the State Governments which have not implemented the said stock limit, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) As per reports received from the States, a total of 1,38,233.18 MT of pulses have been seized since 19.10.2015. In Maharashtra 87167.37 MT and in Gujarat 54.39 MT pulses have been seized. The commodities are seized if they are found in excess of the prescribed stock limits in a particular State. However, no separate data is maintained for quantity or price of domestic or imported seized pulses;

(b) State Governments of Uttarakhand, Kerala, West Bengal and all North Eastern States have not implemented stock limits on storage of pulses; and

(c) The Central Government *vide* Gazette notification S.O. 2642(E) dated 28.09.2015 has enabled the State Governments to impose stock limits on pulses up to 30.09.2016. Enabled by the said order and in exercise of the delegated powers under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 States are free to assess the situation and impose stock limits with the concurrence of the Central Government as and when they deem it necessary. In addition, advisories are issued to States from time to time for taking action under the EC Act.

Delhi-Ranchi Rajdhani train

*144. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the frequency of Delhi-Ranchi Rajdhani train and run it daily;

(b) whether steps are being taken to improve the service of Delhi-Ranchi Rajdhani train, including replacement of old coaches, etc.;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time-frame within which improvements are proposed to be effected; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) At present, 12439/12440 Ranchi-New Delhi Rajdhani Express, 12453/12454 Ranchi-New Delhi Rajdhani Express and 12877/12878 Ranchi-New Delhi Garib Rath Express run on a common path.

With the increase in frequency of 12877/12878 Ranchi-New Delhi Garib Rath Express from bi-weekly to tri-weekly w.e.f. 29.06.2014, the path is occupied on all seven days of the week *i.e.* two days by 12439/12440 Ranchi-New Delhi Rajdhani Express, two days by 12453/12454 Ranchi-New Delhi Rajdhani Express and remaining three days by 12877/12878 Ranchi-New Delhi Garib Rath Express. As such, increase in frequency of New Delhi-Ranchi Rajdhani Express trains is not feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

(b) to (d) Presently, 12439/12440 Ranchi-New Delhi Rajdhani Express and 12453/12454 Ranchi-New Delhi Rajdhani Express is already running with LHB (Linke Hofmann Busch) coaches which is fit in all respects and well within the codal life.

Improvement of catering services is an on-going process. In its endeavour to provide quality and hygienic food to the passengers, Railways have developed and operationalized an institutionalized mechanism for monitoring of quality and hygiene of catering services through regular inspections at various levels to address catering complaints.

Further, steps taken/are being taken to ensure that good quality and hygienic food is served to the passengers include: (i) Introduction of station based E-Catering for widening the range of options available to passengers for ordering food of their choice, (ii) Introduction of pre-cooked food ('ready to eat' meals) in the range of options available to passengers, (iii) Operation of centralized Catering Service Monitoring Cell (CSMC) (toll free number 1800-111-321) for prompt redressal of passenger grievances relating to the catering activities and real time assistance to travelling public, (iv) Imposition of penalties in case of deficiencies detected in services, (v) Operation of all India Helpline (No. 138) for rail-users to lodge complaints/suggestions regarding food and catering services, (vi) A Twitter handle @ IR Catering has also been made operational to cater to the complaints/suggestions with regard to catering services.

Rise in prices of food items despite their sufficient availability

†*145. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the current retail inflation, Government would rein in retail inflation by March, 2017;

(b) whether it is a fact that many a times, despite sufficient availability of food items, the retail inflation still remains high; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.