

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) 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 to ensure good quality and hygienic food served to the passengers *inter alia* include:- (i) Phased introduction of station based e-catering at all A-1 and A category stations for widening the range of options available to passengers for ordering food of their choice, (ii) Introduction of precooked food ('ready to eat' meals), (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, and (vi) A Twitter handle with the address @IRCATERING has also been made operational to cater to the complaints/suggestions with regard to catering services.

(c) No, Sir. The policy guidelines issued by Railway Board from time to time are strictly implemented by the Zonal Railways.

#### **Progress in running of high-speed and ultra high-speed trains**

†2835. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no progress, so far, has been made on running of high-speed and ultra high-speed trains;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the progress made on running of high-Speed and ultra high-Speed trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed rail project with design speed of 350 kmph. has been sanctioned in December, 2015 with financial and technical assistance from

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government of Japan. National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRC) has been incorporated in February, 2016 to implement this project. Work on appointment of General Consultant, Final Location Survey and training of officials has commenced. The target for commissioning of the project is 2023.

#### **Expansion of railway lines in Uttarakhand**

†2836. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan is being formulated for expansion of railway lines in bordering State of Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, the name of railway lines where expansion is proposed in next financial year; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) There are six major ongoing projects falling fully/partly in the State of Uttarakhand comprising three new lines, two gauge conversion and one doubling projects covering length of 209.9 km., 655 km. and 27 km. respectively. Projects to be included in the next financial year *i.e.* 2017-18 have not been decided.

#### **Survey for new railway route from Agra to Ramganj Mandi**

†2837. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATTIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the dates on which surveys of the new railway route from Ujjain-Agra-Jhalawar to Ramganj Mandi have been done in the past and the details regarding the status of possibilities for construction of this railway route; and

(b) the action taken on the proposals for conversion of Ujjain-Fatehabad (Western Railway) meter gauge route to broad gauge, which will make the Ujjain-Fatehabad-Indore railway route length shorter than the Indore-Dewas-Ujjain route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Rail connectivity already exists between Agra and Jhalawar *via* Kota, Ramganj Mandi and between Agra and Ujjain *via* Kota, Ramganj Mandi and Nagda. To assess viability for a direct connectivity between Ramganj Mandi and Ujjain, a survey was conducted in the year 2000-01 for a new line between Ramganj Mandi-Ujjain

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