

investments. The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has also initiated to review the existing policy to expedite implementation.

(d) and (e) Government of India considers proposals for approval of PCPIRs once received from the State Governments. At present, there is no proposal to set up PCPIR in West Bengal. However, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved to set up PCPIR in Haldia, West Bengal in February 2009, which was dropped by the State Government as the State Government decided to develop an Industrial Park, Power Plant and an Eco Tourism Park in Haldia.

Supply of Rail Neer in Trains

†*388. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided that passengers would be supplied only Rail Neer in trains;

(b) if so, the current status of supply of Rail Neer in trains; and

(c) whether Government is cognizant of the fact that Rail Neer is not supplied to passengers in New Delhi-Jaipur Double Decker train by hawkers even when passengers insist for it, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. At present, Rail Neer is supplied to passengers of all Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Duronto/Suvidha trains. Rail Neer is also supplied on 100% basis in 139 pairs of trains as identified by the Ministry of Railways. For remaining trains, other brands of Packaged Drinking Water (PDW) bottles are being supplied to the passengers, as approved by the Zonal Railways. Presently, approximately 6 lakh litres of packaged drinking water is being supplied to passengers all over the Indian Railways, through production in seven Rail Neer plants located at Nangloi, Delhi (2003), Danapur, Bihar (2004), Palur, Tamil Nadu (2011), Ambernath, Maharashtra (2014), Amethi, Uttar Pradesh (2015), Parassala, Kerala (2016) and Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh (2017). However, since the estimated demand for PDW is approximately 25 lakh litres per day, six more Rail Neer plants are to become operational in the next two years which will augment the total capacity to approximately ten lakh litres per day. In addition, 1106 Water Vending Machines set up by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) have been installed at 345 stations for dispensing drinking water to passengers at prescribed rates in refills and with containers as under:-

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Quantity	Refill (Amount in ₹)	With Container (Amount in ₹)
300 ml	1	2
500 ml	3	5
1 litre	5	8
2 litre	8	12
5 litre	20	25

Another 1100 Water Vending Machines are planned to be installed on other railway stations shortly. Further, all railway stations are already having provision of potable drinking water on all platforms to satisfy the needs of rail passengers, free of cost. On most important stations, water coolers and chiller plants are also in operation for providing cold drinking water to passengers during the summer season.

(c) New Delhi-Jaipur Double Decker train has not been currently identified for mandatory supply of Rail Neer as the production of the Nangloi plant producing PDW in this area is not enough to cater to the entire demand. Rail Neer plant at Hapur is being set up to bridge the demand supply gap. However, other brands of BIS approved packaged drinking water shortlisted and approved by Zonal Railway are sold in this train.

Transcontinental Rail Freight Service

*389. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Railways, along with seven other countries, will explore the possibility of transcontinental rail freight service connecting India with Iran and Turkey, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a conference was held recently on this issue to chalk out strategies to turn this into reality; and

(c) if so, the details of the deliberations made in the said conference?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir. With a view to enable India to reap the benefits of establishing the rail connectivity with its neighbouring countries, on both Eastern and Western side, Government of India supports the UNESCAP initiative of Trans-Asian Railway network, and has signed and ratified Inter Governmental Agreement of Trans-Asian Railway network. On this route, Istanbul-Tehran-Islamabad container trains are already operational. Efforts are being made to extend this train up to Bangladesh (Dhaka) via India (Kolkata & Delhi). In this regard, Ministry of Railways has taken up the issue with Ministry of External Affairs.