Train operation by private companies

†723. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to hand over responsibilities of train operations to private companies;

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal to hand over the operations of goods trains to private companies along with passenger train; and

(c) the details of work of Railways which have been delegated to private companies at present, the number of complaints received regarding poor quality of work and the details of mechanism adopted for their redressal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to privatise any area of operation of Railways. Participation of Private Sector has been allowed in construction and maintenance of Railway lines under various models of Participative Policy such as Non Government Railway, Joint Venture, Build Operate and Transfer, Customer Funding and Annuity. In all these schemes, responsibility of trains operation and safety certification rests with Indian Railways. However, outsourcing of certain facilities like cleaning, pay and use toilets, retiring rooms, parking etc. is done on need based manner to improve efficiency. In case of any deficiency, the mechanism of redressal as per the contract is invoked.

Water vending machines at railway stations

724. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of water vending machines installed by the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC);

(b) whether IRCTC plans to install a water vending machine at every station;

(c) whether it is a fact that the installation of water vending machines has considerably reduced the use of plastic bottles, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the plastic cups at the functioning vending machines have been fully replaced by paper cups?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.