

Deterioration of food quality and quantity in Rajdhani Express

732. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that reduction of food items served in Rajdhani Express plying to Eastern India and the sharp increase in railway fare since 2014 have resulted in dissatisfaction amongst the passengers;

(b) whether Government plans to take pocket-friendly measures for passengers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir. In terms of Catering Policy 2017, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has been rationalizing the menu of pre-paid trains including Rajdhani trains to Eastern India where catering charges are inbuilt in the passenger fare. Under rationalization of menu, IRCTC has changed the nature of meals as per the needs of passengers. The menu is, however, commensurate with the existing tariff.

(b) and (c) It is the endeavour of Indian Railways to fix and notify tariff of catering items from time to time, taking into consideration its affordability as per the needs of travelling passengers. The tariff of standard items for Mail/Express trains and Static Units was last revised in 2012 and for all pre-paid Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Duronto trains in 2013.

Indian Railways have also taken the following pocket-friendly measures for catering:—

- (i) Introduction of Janta Meal and Standard Meal on trains and at platforms.
- (ii) Opening of Jan Aahars at railway stations (where food price is fixed from ₹ 5 to ₹ 50).
- (iii) Provision of e-Catering services at railway stations.
- (iv) Provision of variety of regional cuisines at railway stations.

Vacancies in Railways

733. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a large number of vacancies in Railways;