

Rat menace at railway stations

764. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Chennai Division of Railways spent approximately ₹ 22,300 on trapping one rat and have spent nearly ₹ 6 crore on tackling rat menace at the railway stations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating expenditure of all other Railway Divisions thereon; and
- (c) the details of new cost-effective measures being taken by Railway authorities to eliminate rats at various railway stations across the country?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) No, Sir. For Stations in Chennai division Rodent control is part of station cleaning contract.

(b) Rodent control is part of mechanized cleaning contracts and separate expenditure is not captured by Accounts in many divisions.

(c) With the construction of concrete aprons, there is little scope for rodents to make holes. At rest of the places burrows are treated with zinc phosphate with laced food attractant baits. With the installation of bio-toilets & provision of dustbins in coaches it is ensured that food/other waste, is not dumped on station tracks or platforms, which is a major source of attraction for rodents. Integrated mechanized cleaning contracts at stations are inclusive of pest and rodent control.

Mission Raftaar

765. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have indigenously designed and manufactured a high-speed locomotive capable of achieving a top speed of 180 kmph;
- (b) if so, the details of the amount spent on the project;
- (c) the details of funds released under Mission Raftaar since the last two years;
- (d) whether the average speed of trains across the railway network has increased under the Mission Raftaar project; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?