

of three new divisions announced in 2014, including Gulbarga. Final decision in this regard would be taken after submission of the report by the aforementioned Committee.

**Stale food served in train**

†1407. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways administration has allotted the tender of serving food in the high speed train Vande Bharat Express to the same vendor who served stale food in the train recently;

(b) whether Government has investigated the said incident; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) A complaint regarding serving of stale food in 22435-36 Vande Bharat (New Delhi-Varanasi) was lodged on 17.11.2019. The matter was investigated and following actions were taken:—

(i) The service provider for supplying dinner in the train, M/s. Hotel Landmark, Kanpur, was fined Rupees 01 (one) lakh along with a show cause notice for non-compliance of catering service standards.

(ii) The concerned supervisors of IRCTC present on duty at the time of incident are being taken up under Discipline and Appeal Rules.

(iii) Process for appointment of a new service provider has been initiated.

(iv) A representative of IRCTC has been placed in the food preparation area and kitchen area of the supplier.

**Operation of goods and passenger trains by private sector**

†1408.DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering handing over the responsibility of operating the trains to private companies;

(b) if so, whether the operation of goods trains along with the passenger trains is also proposed to be handed over to private companies; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.