

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the details of railway-related works being undertaken by private companies at present, the number of complaints received regarding the poor quality of their works and the mechanism adopted to redress the same?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Ministry of Railways have constituted a Group of Secretaries (GoS) with a term of one year *inter alia* to permit private passenger train operators to operate trains with world class technology over Indian Railways Network. The GoS has held three meetings, so far. In regard to Goods trains, various wagon investment schemes, *i.e.* Automobile Freight Train Operators (AFTO) Scheme, Liberalized Wagon Investment Scheme (LWIS), Special Freight Train Operator Scheme (SFTO) and General purpose Wagon Investment Scheme (GPWIS) have been introduced for participation of private entities in wagon procurement. However, operation of these goods trains remains with Indian Railways.

(c) 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, Built 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.

Study to calculate money lost due to delayed trains

1409. DR. SANTANU SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise 'total number of hours' trains in the country got delayed in the last five years;

(b) whether there is any study to calculate the loss of money per hour for these delays;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, whether Government is planning to conduct such study in the next one or two years;

(e) if so, details thereof; and