

(d) if not, the manner in which it is ensured that people belonging to some special caste are not given priority by the private firms associated with Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. An advertisement was published in newspapers by a private Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) Catering Contractor, M/s. Brandavan Food Products, for recruitment of staff from only Agarwal Vaish Community. As per the tender conditions, licensee shall be solely responsible for compliance of all law of the land on which business is conducted. IRCTC does not support this kind of advertisement and same was conveyed to the contractor with strict warning.

Indian Railways have never issued any instructions regarding caste-based recruitment of employees working in various firms/companies/contracts including those associated with catering services in Railways. The tender conditions also stipulate that licensees must ensure compliance with all applicable laws and all statutory requirements.

Further, no preference/relaxation is to be given to any caste/creed in Railway's recruitment as the same would be in violation of the Constitutional provisions regarding Equality of Opportunity to all in the matter of employment under Central Government.

On notice of the said advertisement, IRCTC sought immediate explanation from the contractor. The contractor has since apologised and withdrawn the advertisement.

#### **Appointment of members to ZRUCC**

†1387. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the process of appointment of members to Zonal Railway Users Consultative Committee (ZRUCC) on the recommendations of Members of Parliament (MPs) has been discontinued at present;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the level at which the recommendation has been obtained and the levels at which suggestions have been sought before discontinuation;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the number of MPs on whose recommendations the members of ZRUCC have been nominated at present; and

(d) the names of the MPs who had recommended for the nomination of members to the said Committee but no nomination was done on their recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (d) As per extant provisions, ten Members of Parliament (7 from Lok Sabha, 3 from Rajya Sabha) are nominated on each ZRUCC on the recommendation of Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. Further, there is provision to nominate representative(s) of Union Ministers, on ZRUCCs. Members of Parliament can nominate their representative(s) on Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committees (DRUCCs). In addition, there is a provision that Minister for Railways can nominate such other members as he/she considers necessary to be represented on these committees. These members are nominated on the recommendation of various representations received from various dignitaries including Members of Parliament and also from general public. Since large number of requests are received, separate statistics regarding number of recommendations received and those on which members have been nominated on ZRUCC are not maintained.

#### **Criminal cases within the jurisdiction of railways**

1388. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of criminal cases that have been reported within the jurisdiction of Railways in various parts of the country in the year 2019 alone. State-wise and Zone-wise;

(b) the number of people arrested in this regard for committing crimes; and

(c) the various types of crimes like theft or any other type of crimes have been registered in these criminal cases?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Policing on Railways being a State subject, prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments, which they