

competition the interest of the consumer is bound to suffer. Will the hon. Minister please assure the House that the interest of the consumer will be fully protected ?

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: I would like to inform the House that after the final decision has been taken by the Government, there is no complaint from any of the consumers or from Members of Parliament. We got only one letter from the Pepsi. No consumer organisation complained against the final decision of the Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, World Food Organisation and World Health Organisation have stated in a joint report that the use of BVO i.e. Bromite Vegetable Oil in soft drinks sold in India should be banned which is mainly mixed in Limca, Campa, Orange and Rasna etc. The Central Government had imposed a ban on 15 Oct., 1990 on the use of BVO in soft drinks. I would like to know whether that order is still being followed or not. These companies get it printed on their bottles that these do not contain BVO. The companies had got a stay also for a period of two years and had been given a stay to find a substitute of BVO. Have these companies found a substitute of BVO? The World Health Organisation has stated that intake of BVO mixed soft drinks can cause serious diseases like cancer. In view of this, is our Government taking it seriously and is the ban-order issued by our Government in this regard being properly implemented or not?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is disallowed. It does not come out of the original question.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: May I know from the hon. Minister whether before taking a final view about the size of the bottle, he will get it analysed from the Health Ministry that it is not a health hazard ?

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: In the Standing Committee, there is always a representative of the Health Ministry also.

Palace on Wheels

*629. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce "Palace on Wheels" type tourist train services and "Palace on Wheel Restaurant" to attract foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the precise details in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the proposal is to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c). Indian Railways have identified the following tourist circuits for introduction of 'Palace on Wheels' type tourist train services:

BROAD GAUGE

1. Delhi-Jaipur-Jodhpur-Jaisalmer-Sawai Madhopur-Bharatpur-Agra-Delhi;

2. Howrah - Gaya - Varanasi - Gorakhpur - Bhubaneswar - Puri - Howrah;
3. Bombay - Aurangabad - Nanded - Secunderabad - Hyderabad - Pune - Bombay;
4. Delhi - Jaipur - Agra - Gwalior - Jhansi - Varansi - Lucknow - Delhi;
5. Goa (Madgaon) - Mangalore - Mysore - Hospet - Bangalore - Goa (Madgaon);
6. Bangalore - Mysore - Madras - Kodaikanal Road - Kanniyakumari - Trivandrum - Cochin - Mettupalayam - Bangalore;

METRE GAUGE

7. Madras (Egmore) - Pondicherry - Karaikal - Velankini - Tiruchchirappalli - Madurai - Rameshwaram - Thanjavur - Chidambaram - Madras (Egmore); and
8. Delhi - Jaipur - Udaipur - Ahmedabad - Veraval - Palitana - Delhi.

The broad gauge 'Palace on Wheels' tourist train (listed at S.No. 1) and the two metre gauge tourist trains in Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Gujarat sectors, listed at S.Nos. 7&8, are being introduced in collaboration with the Tourism Development Corporations of Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat, tentatively from April, 1995; October, 1994 and February, 1995, respectively.

In regard to the remaining five circuits listed above at S.Nos. 2 to 6, it has been decided to invite bids from public and

private sectors for the ownership, marketing and management of the tourist train services. The minimum time required for construction and introduction of the new train services would be one year from the date of award of the contract.

It is also proposed to utilise some of the Saloons of the original metre gauge rake of 'Palace on Wheels' as a restaurant in the premises of the Rail Transport Museum, New Delhi, for which bids would be invited shortly.

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether tenders are being invited from the private parties for running luxury tourist trains on these circuits and if so what are the details. What will be the terms and conditions?

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: So far, nothing of that sort is being done. There has been understanding with the State Governments about the concept. We are still under preparation. Once we get prepared, then we would invite the tenders.

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: What will be the facilities to be provided to the tourists on these trains? What will be the estimated expenditure on the running of each train?

MR. SPEAKER: It is in the conceptual level.

C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: As I said earlier, we are in the process of doing it. Once the process is ready, then we will come out with the details.

[Translation]

SHRI AYUB KHAN: Mr. Speaker.

Sir, 'Palace of wheels' is soon to be introduced from Delhi to Jaipur. Will it be running via Jhunjhunu or not? So far as Tourism is concerned Jhunjhunu tops the list. It has ancient mansions and forts. There are mansions having around four hundred windows. Is it proposed to make arrangements to run the Delhi-Jaipur train via Jhunjhunu to enable the tourists to see those ancient mansions and magnificent forts?

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a train has already been introduced via Jhunjhunu, so, there is no need for this train to run via Jhunjhunu.

SHRIMATI BHAVANA CHIKHLIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, an assurance had been given to us that the western Railway will be given palace on wheels. I would like to know, through you, the time when it is proposed to be provided and run?

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have already said, we are in the process of doing it and very likely it will be done next year.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Gomati Express goes to Delhi, the Capital of India and Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh. I have submitted 14-15 applications to the hon. Minister since 1991 till date. I would like to say that Firozabad enjoys a district status and all the business of India come here... (Interruptions)..

MR. SPEAKER: Is palace on wheels going to be introduced there also?

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: I have been visiting his Ministry for the last three years..... (Interruptions).. Shri Acharyaji was a member in the Railway

Board and he had given an assurance.. (Interruptions).. The hon. Minister had asked as to what is manufactured in Firozabad. I said bangles are manufactured there..... (Interruptions)..

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please come out with the question now.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:.... (Interruptions).*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is very very unseemly. You should not have said that. Please withdraw those words.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: I withdraw these words. I would want to know whether Gomati Express will have a stoppage at Firozabad?

[English]

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: This question is relating to palace on wheels. Therefore, what the hon. Member is asking does not come out of this.

Vice-Chancellors

*630. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission had appointed a committee to

* Expunged as ordered by the chair.