

(a) whether the catering department of Railways is running in losses despite the continuous increase in the sale;

(b) the details of the profit earned/loss incurred by the department during last three years;

(c) whether the catering unit at Varanasi station is running in losses continuously from 1984 to 1990;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken against the persons found responsible for it and the steps taken to streamline the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The sales turnover and profit/loss of Departmental Catering on Indian Railways for last three years are as under:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Sales Turnover (Rupees in crores)</i>	<i>Profit/Loss (Rupees in crores)</i>
1987-88	56.33	(-) 0.30
1988-89	65.71	(-) 0.71
1989-90	72.18	(-) 0.23

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The losses are mainly due to increase in input costs as well as staff costs. The staff costs have gone up because Commission Vendors are being paid the same salary as regular employee under Court orders.

(e) Question of fixation of responsibility does not arise in view of above. Steps taken/proposed to be taken to reduce/eliminate losses include strict monitoring of expenditure, sales promotion, intensive inspections and de-departmentalisation.

(b) whether the contract labourers are being exploited; and

(c) whether the Government have taken a decision to do away with this system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir. In certain establishments/operations.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

[English]

Contract Labour System in Railways

6412. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether contract labour system is still going on in the Railways;

Transfer of Pune-Miraj Section

6413. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from various public