

**Unauthorised Hawkers on Stations**

255. DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI:  
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment in regard to rising number of unauthorised hawkers on the railway stations and in the running trains in various zones of the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have contemplated to regularise these hawkers by giving them licences; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b). No assessment has been made regarding the number of unauthorised hawkers/vendors at railway stations and in the trains. However, during 1993-94, 57967 checks were conducted and 18157 unauthorised hawkers/vendors were prosecuted under the provision of the Railways Act, 1989.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. The issue was however examined in depth but was not found feasible.

**Number on Sleeper Coaches**

256. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:  
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that very often sleeper coaches are marked with chalk wrongly and in a

haphazard manner and not placed in serial order:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b). Mostly the numbering of the coaches is done as per the prescribed instructions. In exceptional cases, the serial order is not followed on account of sick marking of the coaches, etc.

(c) Instructions have been reiterated to the Railways to use the metal plates for indicating the coach numbers on reserved compartments.

**Railway Catering Corporation**

257. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to set up a Railway Catering Corporation with a view to improve the catering services;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up and start functioning;

(d) whether the food items and meals served in the North/South Avenue canteens are checked by the officers of the Railway catering;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and