

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Poor Catering facilities

4355. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI :
SHRI MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI MITRASEN YADAV :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of complaints received about poor catering facilities in the super-fast trains including Rajdhani Express trains;

(b) whether there is any proposal to improve catering facilities on board, including the quality food;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any inspection mechanism, to make surprise spot inspection to monitor quality, on a regular basis; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) 482 complaints were received during 1997-98.

(b) to (e) Improvement in catering services in an on-going process. Constant efforts are made by the Railways to improve the standard of catering services, which include maintenance of hygiene and cleanliness, improvements in handling, storage and service of food provision of potable drinking water, display of prescribed menu, daily registering of deficiencies in the lobby office for immediate action etc. Regular as well as surprise checks are conducted and remedial action taken

[Translation]

Recruitment of Khalasis In Dahod Loco Workshop

4356. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts of Khalasis are lying vacant since 1990, in Dahod Loco workshop;

(b) the time by which the above vacant posts are likely to be filled up,

(c) whether all old casual labourers are likely to be absorbed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The number of vacant posts of Khalasis from 1990 to 1997 are as follows:

1990	13	1994	71
1991	65	1995	117
1992	62	1996	105
1993	90	1997	94

(b) The filling up of vacant posts will depend upon future work-load of Dahod workshop and result of zero based study.

(c) and (d) There is no old casual labourer in Dahod Workshop.

[English]

Derailment of Goods Train

4357. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether derailment of a goods train occurred at Juvvalapalem Railway gate on the Rajamundry-Vijayawada section of the South Central Railway on June 15, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the enquiry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 15th June, 1998, 25 wagons of Tirovattur/Avadi/Box 'N' Up goods derailed and capsized near the Unmanned Level Crossing at Juvvalapalem village between Navabpalem and Tadepalligudem stations of Vijayawada Division, South Central Railway.

(c) and (d) The accident was enquired by a Committee of Officers which concluded that the accident occurred due to improper packing/flashing of consignment causing imbalance on under gear suspension resulting in derailment.