

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:333
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2002
PANTRY CARS IN TRAINS
RAM SAJEEVAN

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Pantry Cars are provided in trains as an essential passenger facility despite heavy losses;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to bring down the losses;
- (c) whether the Government have decided to provide mobile library-cum-bookstall like pantry car in long distance trains as an essential facility to the passenger on non-commercial considerations; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for not providing such facility in various long distance trains operating in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 333 BY SHRI RAM SAJIVAN TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 12.12.2002 REGARDING PANTRY CARS IN TRAINS

(a) & (b): Pantry cars are provided on selected long distance trains as a passenger facility and not for profit. To improve financial viability steps have been taken to streamline working of departmental pantry cars and privatise unviable services. In licensee operated pantry cars two-packet system of technical and financial bids has also been introduced from October 2000.

(c) & (d): After review during 1986 it was decided that the facility of mobile library-cum-bookstalls, including hawking of books, Magazines etc., in long distance trains on Indian Railways should not be further introduced due to poor patronage from passengers. However, the existing mobile library-cum-bookstall on the trains already introduced were allowed to continue subject to their satisfactory working.