

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5135
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2005
AVAILABILITY OF DRINKING WATER
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Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that drinking water is not available at many Railways Stations;
- (b) if so, whether Ministry of Railways has formulated any scheme to make available potable water in all trains and at railway stations in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) to (c) Indian Railways have more than 8000 stations. Railways endeavour is to provide drinking water to passengers at all stations. Some small stations do not have adequate water source either due to absence of water supply from municipality or presence of brackish water, inadequate ground water yield from hand pumps. Further, even at some of those stations where piped/hand pump supply exists, water scarcity occurs in summer due to lesser supplies by municipality, lowering in ground water table etc. and increased demand. In such cases, availability of drinking water is ensured at stations by arranging water through private water tankers. Even water special trains are run in areas facing heavy shortage of water. Water coolers, mobile water trollies, matkas are arranged for better availability of water to the passengers. Many `Non Government Organisations` also supplement water to passengers. In addition, packaged drinking water/natural mineral water is made available for sale through static as well as mobile catering/vending units. Passenger coaches carry water only for washing purpose. Drinking water is not provided in tanks of coaches.