

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1179

ANSWERED ON:15.07.2004

INTRODUCTION OF EARTHEN CUP AND KHADI IN TRAINS/STATIONS

Chakraborty Shri Ajay; Mane Smt. Nivedita; Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh; Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao; Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the railways has introduced Earthen Cups (Kulhads) instead of plastic cups and also use of Khadi in trains/stations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for taking such decision;
- (c) whether before introducing such decision, the Government has made any feasibility study regarding number of Kulhads needed per day, sickness of Khadi units and getting supply of Kulhads and Khadi in such a large quantity;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the criteria fixed by the Government for procurement of such cups and Khadi;
- (f) the cost of per earthen cup as compare to plastic cups and the total amount involved in introduction of such change in railways;
- (g) whether the grievances of affected parties in this regard has been considered; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the new move will benefits the passengers?

Answer

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

(a) to (h): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (h) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1179 BY S/SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH, DALPAT SINGH PARASTE, PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR, AJOY CHAKRABORTY AND SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 15.07.2004 REGARDING INTRODUCTION OF EARTHEN CUP AND KHADI IN TRAINS/STATIONS

(a) and (b): Zonal Railways, Konkan Railway Corporation Limited and Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited have been instructed that to prevent environment pollution, no plastic cups are to be used in railway premises and these should be replaced with Kulhars. Khadi/handloom products have been introduced on Indian Railways, manufacturing process of which is eco-friendly. Introduction of Kulhars and Khadi/handloom products will also provide job avenues for weaker sections of society.

(c) to (e): Kulhars are produced by potters traditionally since time immemorial. Kulhars and Khadi/handloom products are widely used in rural India across the length and breadth of the country. These are not innovations, rather introduction of traditional items in railways. Zonal Railways will procure Kulhars as per extant guidelines.

(f): Though plastic cups come at a cheaper price but the environmental cost of plastics is enormous.

(g): So far, no grievances have been reported.

(h): This move will help control environment pollution and provide job avenues to weaker sections of society.