

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1476
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2004
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY ON RAILWAY STATIONS
Azmi Shri Ilyas;Mahato Shri Sunil Kumar

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has carried out or contemplating to carry out any survey to find out employment opportunities on railway stations and on the additional railway land adjoining to railway stations ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of contracts/licences issued to start shops and stalls to create employment opportunities on these places during each of the last three years; and
- (d) the details thereof ?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) Catering activities at Railway stations and on adjoining railway land has potential of generating employment opportunities in the form of manpower deployment for such activities. However, Railways are hiving off such activities to Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) and all new catering licences will be awarded by IRCTC. IRCTC has surveyed and is in process of survey for setting up of new catering units, Food Plazas, Budget Hotels, Rail Neer Plant etc.

Hon'ble Minister for Railways announced on the floor of Parliament that IRCTC will set up 50 new Food Plazas, six Budget Hotels and Rail Neer Plants in the first phase which in turn will also generate employment opportunities. IRCTC has set up Nil Food Plazas in 2001-02, 4 Food Plazas in 2002-03, 15 Food Plazas in 2003-04 and 8 Food Plazas in current year i.e. 2004-05. Approximately 1620 persons got employment in these Food Plazas. 12 new Food Plazas will be set up in the next four months, which will give employment to 720 persons. Similarly, Nil Static Catering Units were set up in 2001-02 and 2002-03, 02 Small Static Units in 2003-04 and 1 Static Unit was set up in current year i.e. 2004-05. 30 persons in total got employment in these static units. IRCTC installed two Rail Neer Plant at Nangoli (Delhi) and Danapur in the year 2003-04 in which 150 persons got employment. IRCTC has also finished a survey for setting up of Budget Hotels at 6 major places, which will generate employment for 600 persons. All such employments, mentioned above, will be generated through licensees.

Railway Land, which is not immediately required for railway uses, is also utilized for

- i) Grow More Food Scheme, by licensing the land to Railway employees belonging to Group 'C' & 'D'.
- ii) Plantation of Jatropha Curcas for producing Bio-diesel.
- iii) Commercial Development.

For the efficient management of vacant Railway land, it is envisaged to create Railway Land Development Authority which will handle all the commercial development of vacant land.