

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2962

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2013

BASE KITCHENS

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Chitthan Shri N.S.V.;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash;Pradhan Shri Amarnath;Siricilla Shri Rajaiah

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have any plan to do away with the existing pantry car services for preparation of food items and instead go for base kitchen across the country for catering services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the objective behind this move;
- (c) the railway stations where this base kitchen will be set up, zone-wise;
- (d) the salient features of this initiative;
- (e) whether the Railways are also considering for providing branded food items and make it mandatory to use them in the base kitchen in order to ensure quality; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY)

(a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2962 BY SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN, SHRI ANAND PRAKASH PARANJPE, SHRI B.B. PATIL, SHRI EKNATH M. GAIKWAD, SHRI AMARNATH PRADHAN, SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAI SI AND SHRI RAJAIAH SIRICILLA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 14.03.2013 REGARDING BASE KITCHENS.

(a) to (d) As per guidelines of New Catering Policy, 2010, the attachment of pantry cars to trains is considered based on various factors such as priority of the train, (First priority to Duronto /Rajdhani then Super fast Mail/Express trains then the trains running more than 24 hours either way), commercial justification, availability of pantry cars, load limitation and other operational feasibility factors. In cases where trains are not provided with a pantry car or pantry cars have been withdrawn the catering services are provided through Train Side Vending by supply of meals through static catering units from enroute stations to the passengers in trains. All Rajdhani/long distance Duronto Express including some superfast/ Mail Express trains have been provided with pantry cars.

Further, Catering Policy,2010 defines that zonal railways are to set up a grid of modern mega, medium and small base kitchens as per the requirement of meals to be served to the travelling public and the number of trains to be serviced enroute to ensure that all mobile catering are serviced through these base kitchens to improve quality, hygiene, cleanliness and use of standard ingredients for food served on trains. The base kitchens are to be set up on railway premises for which the existing base kitchens/cell kitchens available on platforms are to be developed. The base kitchens are to be managed by licensees or through departmental catering by zonal railways if possible. The base kitchen must have ISO-22000 certification and have to be railway specified, supervised and controlled to ensure quality of the food served on trains.

(e) and (f) Instructions exist with railways that all raw materials/ spices/food items used in the base kitchens for the preparation of food/meals have to be Food Products Order (FPO)/ AGMARK approved wherever applicable. Shortlisting of brands for various items is done by the zonal railways through a committee of officers nominated for this.