

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2536
ANSWERED ON:06.02.2014
PACKAGED WATER SCARCITY
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether complaints regarding non-supply of sufficient quantity of Rail Neer have been received by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether vendors are allowed to sell water bottles of other brands to meet the shortfall of Rail Neer;
- (d) if not, the steps taken to ensure adequate supply of Rail Neer bottles or permit sale of bottles of other brands in case of shortfall in supply of rail neer; and
- (e) the steps taken by Railways to provide packaged Rail Neer at reasonable price?

Answer

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

(a): No, Madam.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) and (d): Yes, Madam. In case of non-availability of Rail Neer, Zonal Railways have shortlisted other Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) approved brands of packaged drinking water to be sold on Railway premises. Apart from this, thirteen bottling plants are to be set up by IRCTC at Ambarnath (Mumbai), Ambala, Amethi, Mal, Nasik, Farakka, Parassala (near Trivendrum), Lalitpur, Vijayawada, Bilaspur, Nagpur, Jaipur and Ahmedabad. After the commencement of production from these plants, IRCTC will be able to supply 14 lakh Rail Neer bottles per day by December 2015 and thus, IRCTC will be able to meet more than 50% of the total demand of Rail Neer on Indian Railways.

(e): The pricing of Rail Neer is based on raw materials, electricity, fuel, transportation and manpower etc. IRCTC makes all efforts to control cost of inputs.