

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:328
ANSWERED ON:13.02.2014
RAIL TOURISM
Siricilla Shri Rajaiah

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the policy of the Railways to boost tourism in the country;
- (b) whether the Railways have reviewed the effectiveness of the policy and if so, the outcome therefor;
- (c) whether the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation also run non-railway catering business;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the revenue earned by the Railways as a result thereof during the last two years and the current years;
and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Railways to boost the Rail tourism in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.328 BY SHRI RAJIAH SIRICILLA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 13.02.2014 REGARDING RAIL TOURISM

(a): Indian Railways promotes tourism mainly by providing connectivity to major tourist destinations across the country through rail network. In addition, specialised tourism products such as Luxury tourist trains, Buddhist special train, Bharat Darshan trains, Steam train, Charter trains, Tour packages etc. are also introduced from time to time mainly through Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and select State Tourism corporations.

(b): The policies are reviewed from time to time and specialised new tourism products are introduced or existing ones modified based on the demand.

(c) and (d): Yes, Madam. Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is running non-railway catering business. IRCTC is managing and operating 53 Non-Railway Catering Units in various organisations, institutions, departments etc. No revenue is directly shared with Indian Railway since it is a non-railway business. The details of revenue earned by IRCTC from non railway catering during last two years and current year are as under:-

Non Railway Catering Financial Years	Revenue (In lakhs)
2011-12	1136.92
2012-13	2732.19
2013-14 (upto 31/12/2013)	2620.05
TOTAL	6489.16

(e): In order to boost tourism in the country, the major steps being undertaken are introduction of new train services connecting tourist destinations, upgradation and development of select railway stations of tourism importance, introduction of specialised tourism products like luxury tourist train Palace on Wheels, Deccan Odyssey, Golden Chariot, Royal Rajasthan on Wheels and Maharajas' Express catering to high end tourists on around 12 different itineraries covering large number of important tourist destinations, affordable budget tourist products like Bharat Darshan trains on different itineraries covering major tourist destinations, trains covering pilgrimage destinations like Buddhist special train & Tirath Specials, heritage tourist trains, steam trains and hill section trains. Apart from these, specialised chartered trains, train based tour packages to different destinations and specialised tourism packages and products marketed through website www.railtourismindia.com etc. are available.