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Title : Need to regularize the services of catering workers in the Railways.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD): I would like to invite the attention of Government to the pathetic condition of thousands of railway catering workers. As a part of privatization, IRCTC was introduced in railways and it is tendering catering units to the highest bidders. Thousands of catering workers have already been rendered jobless. Hence, I demand that Government should conduct a thorough review of this policy. Introduction of Food Plazas by the IRCTC has adversely affected the job security of catering workers. Hence it is urged that Food Plazas should be introduced only as an additional facility for higher class passengers and not as a permanent replacement for NVRR/VRR. Sufficient number of vending passes also should be allocated. Catering staff should be considered for recruitment in the lowest grade as railway employees. Welfare Fund, PF and other social security benefits should be implemented for all catering staff. The Government should take all measures to protect thousands of catering workers in Indian Railways who are facing acute insecurity due to the policies of privatization.