

**DETERIORATION IN QUALITY OF FOOD SERVED ON RAILWAYS**

\*575. **SHRI S. C. SAMANTA** : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the deteriorating quality of food being served by various units of Railway Catering Department; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to improve the quality of food ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH)** : (a) Complaints about bad quality of food in various units of Railway Catering Department are occasionally received.

(b) Apart from investigating each specific complaint and taking remedial action, the other steps taken to improve the quality of food generally are :—

(i) proper training of cooks and other staff working in the Catering Units;

(ii) introduction of modern equipment and appliances in Catering Units;

(iii) procurement of good quality of raw materials required for the preparation of food; and

(iv) tightening of supervision on the work of staff.

**SHRI S. C. SAMANTA** : Is it not a fact that the Railway Corruption Enquiry Committee under the chairmanship of Acharya J. B. Kripalani went thoroughly into the catering system in railways and recommended some steps about improvement in quality of food served by both departmental catering and private contractors? May I know what steps have been taken on those recommendations? Recently a committee on catering was formed under the chairmanship of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways. I would like to know whether he is also going into those recommendations?

**SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH** : Regarding departmental catering, Sir, many of the hon. Members have raised that point before also. It is also a fact that there is much to be desired in the departmental catering. Whatever recommendations were previously made the Railway have imple-

mented them. Even then, with a view to further improving the quality and service of departmental catering a committee was constituted. They have gone into the matter and they have already submitted their recommendations. That is under the consideration of Government.

**MR. SPEAKER** : The Question Hour is over. Before I go to the Short Notice Question, I would like to make one observation. Tomorrow I would like to finish a few more questions. Hon. Members should not misunderstand me. I want to finish at least half-a-dozen questions every day. Today we have finished seven questions, thanks to the absentees—four were absent. Let us say that five to ten minutes a re-sufficient for a question and any one question should not be allowed more time. If that is agreed to, we will be able to finish at least six questions every day. I appeal for the co-operation of both the sections of the House.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE** : Kindly direct the Ministers to give correct answers also.

**SHORT NOTICE QUESTION**

**DEATH OF A GIRL DUE TO PENICILLIN INJECTION**

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**S.N.Q. 7. SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL :**  
**SHRI M. L. SONDHI :**  
**SHRI DEVEN SEN :**  
**SHRI MAHANT DIGVIJAI NATH :**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a girl named Jagjit Kaur died of penicillin injection by a C.G.H.S. doctor in New Delhi on the 3rd March, 1968;

(b) if so, whether it was wrongly injected or there was some defect in the manufacture of penicillin injection; and

(c) the action taken in this regard ?

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SATYANARAYAN SINHA)** : (a) Yes. The patient died on 2nd March, 1968.

(b) and (c). This was the fourth penicillin injection in the course of a treatment of five days which was started after an