

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1451
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2006
OVERCHARGING BY PANTRY CONTRACTORS
Patil Shri Shrinivas Dadasaheb

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cases of supply of inferior quality of food, over charging etc. by the pantry contractors on trains have come to the notice of the Railways;
- (b) if so, the action taken by the Railways against such pantry contractors;
- (c) whether the Railways propose to formulate a uniform policy regarding supply of standard quality meals in the Indian Railways as per prescribed rates; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) to (d) : Yes, Sir. Some cases of supply of inferior quality of food, over charging etc. by the pantry contractors on trains have come to the notice of the Railways. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation and Zonal Railways conduct inspection and surprise checks at stations and on trains with a view to ensure that good quality food is supplied through railway catering services. Efforts are also made that licensees do not overcharge for food and do not serve underweight food to the passengers. Moreover, action like, imposition of fine, issuing warning and even termination of contract, are taken in the event of licensees being found at fault. The tariff of tea/coffee, Breakfast and Standard meals is fixed by the Ministry of Railways. This tariff is applicable uniformly throughout Indian Railways.