

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2302  
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2006  
JOB SECURITY OF CATERING WORKERS  
Karunakaran Shri P.

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Railways have received any representations from the catering workers union of Railways ;
- (b) if so, the details of their demands and reaction of the Railways thereto ;
- (c) whether the Railways are aware that the new Catering Policy has caused unemployment of large number of catering workers ;
- (d) if so, the facts thereof ; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Railways to ensure the job security to the existing workers in catering sector ?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. As per catering policy 2004 and subsequent policy, 2005, Railways are handing over catering units at 'A', 'B' and 'C' category of stations to Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). Catering units at 'D', 'E' & 'F' category of stations are still being managed by Railways. However, the catering activity of Railways are to be hived off completely to IRCTC. The demands by the staff under deemed deputation with IRCTC are regarding seniority, pension benefits, absorption of commission bearer/vendor, compassionate ground appointment of legal heirs of deceased commission vendors/bearers and cadre restructuring etc. which are dealt with as per extant rules.

(c) to (e): No, Sir. Departmental catering units are being handed over to IRCTC alongwith staff on 'as is where is' basis and these staff will continue to serve in the IRCTC on deemed deputation with option to be exercised within three years either for absorption in IRCTC or for reversion back to the Railways. In the event of staff opting to revert to the railways, they will be redeployed as per extant rules. The transfer of catering staff along with the activities is in accordance with the Union Cabinet decision.