

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1454
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2007
DIRECTION TO RAILWAYS` CATERERS
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have issued any direction to all its caterers and its refreshment units to serve only Railway's branded drinking water and other eatables ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) whether any violation of these directions by caterers have come to the notice of the Railways and whether any surprise checks have been carried out by the Railways in this regard;
- (d) if so, the action taken by the Railways against the defaulters ;
- (e) whether the cases of expiry dated food items sold in its catering units are also come to the notice of the Railways ; and
- (f) if so, the action taken thereon?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): 'Rail Neer' produced and supplied by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), is the exclusive brand of packaged drinking water procured by the departmental units and non-departmental private catering licensees on the premises of Indian Railways including trains. Private licensees are free to procure supply from available BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) approved brands of packaged drinking water as notified by BIS, where 'Rail Neer' is not available.

(c) to (f): IRCTC and zonal railways conduct regular inspections and surprise checks on quality of food and packaged drinking water with a view to ensure that good quality food and packaged drinking water are supplied on trains and at stations through railway catering services. Appropriate actions like, warning, fine, termination, counseling etc. are taken on the complaints found substantiated.