

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2309  
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2007  
DRINKING WATER FACILITY AT STATIONS  
Singh Shri Chandrabhan Bhaiya

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

- (a) whether the Railways are aware that there is no facility of drinking water at several railway stations of the country and the situation is such that at some places there are taps but there is no water and at other places even the taps are missing.
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto;
- (c) whether the coaches, especially the sleeper coaches of train numbers 2412, 2122 and Mussoorie Express are in dirty and dilapidated condition;
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Railways in this regard; and
- (e) the number of such trains, whose coaches are in dilapidated condition, the glass panes of windows are broken and toilets are dirty along with measures taken by the Railways in this regard?.

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2309 BY SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 15.3.2007 REGARDING DRINKING WATER FACILITY AT STATIONS.

(a) & (b) Indian Railways have more than 8000 stations. Railways endeavour is to provide drinking water to passengers at all stations. Some small stations do not have adequate water source either due to absence of water supply from municipality or presence of brackish water, inadequate ground water yield from hand pumps. Further, even at some of those stations where piped/hand pump supply exists, water scarcity comes up in summer due to lesser supplies by municipality, lowering in ground water level etc. and increased demand. In such cases, availability of drinking water is ensured at stations by arranging water through private water tankers. Even water special trains are run in areas facing heavy shortage of water. Water coolers, mobile water trollies, matkas are arranged for better availability of water to the passengers. Many Non Government Organisations also supplement water supply to passengers. In addition, packaged drinking water/natural mineral water is made available for sale through static as well as mobile catering/vending units. Necessary repairs to water installation are also carried out as and when required. Further, availability of water taps are being ensured through periodic inspection and making good missing taps wherever occurs.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Coaching rakes of all trains, including 2412 - Gondwana Exp., 2122 Madhya Pradesh Sampark Kranti Express and 4042 Mussoorie Express are based at various coaching Depot over Indian Railways for their maintenance. The rakes are intensively examined in the nominated maintenance lines and attended to for cleanliness (exterior and interior), cleaning of toilets and attention to passenger amenity items.

Window glasses which get broken/defective during run as also due to miscreant activities, are also attended to during the maintenance schedules besides cleaning of coach toilets at terminal stations.