

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2574
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2007
SALE OF ADULTERATED FOOD ITEMS AT RAILWAY STATIONS
Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways are aware of selling of adulterated food items at railway stations as published in the 'Jansatta' dated May 18, 2007 ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) the reaction of the Railways thereto ;
- (d) whether police and railway personnel are also found involved in such cases ;
- (e) if so, whether the Railways have formulated any scheme to facilitate sale of unadulterated food items to the passengers at the railway stations ; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) : A news item on catering services at railway stations and in trains has appeared in the 'Jansatta' on 17.05.2007. In this regard it is stated that Railways provide hygienic and quality food to the passengers at stations and in trains. Regular monitoring of catering services is done by Railways and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) officials. Food samples are taken from static and mobile catering units by railways' health officials for testing as per provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA).

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) : IRCTC has engaged independent food audit agencies to ensure quality of food supplied to the passengers of Indian Railways. In addition, dedicated quality inspectors have also been engaged for constant monitoring of quality of food. Deterrent actions like, warning, imposition of fine, disciplinary action, termination of contracts are taken for lapses, on the part of licensees and departmental staff, in catering services.

Continuous monitoring is done of the quality of food served in Railway Stations by periodic inspections, lifting samples for check under quality control and Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954. In case of samples found unsatisfactory, under quality control Commercial Department of the concerned Railway is advised to take necessary punitive /corrective action. In case samples lifted under PFA Act found unsatisfactory prosecution launched in the competent court of law.

Details of Food Samples collected under PFA Act.

Period	No. of Samples Found unfit	No. of prosecution	No. awarded
collected	launched	punishment	under

2006-07 6164 158 28 41

Details of Food Samples collected under Quality control

Period No. of samples Found unfit No. recommended
collected for fine
under PFA Act

2006-07 16399 368 224