

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:4
ANSWERED ON:15.11.2007
CATERING POLICY OF THE RAILWAYS
Prasad Shri Hari Kewal

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any new catering policy in the Railways ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of new agencies to which catering contracts have been awarded during the last three years alongwith the terms of the contracts and the procedure followed in this regard;
- (d) the zone-wise number of new catering stalls allotted during the last three years; and
- (e) the steps taken to keep the prices of food items in these stalls reasonable?

Answer

MINISTRY OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 4 BY SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 15.11.2007 REGARDING CATERING POLICY OF THE RAILWAYS.

(a) & (b) : Railways' catering policy was last revised in December 2005. Thereafter, no new catering policy has been issued.

(c) & (d) : Generally contracts for bigger catering units are awarded through two -packet tender system, and other units by calling applications. The tenure of these contracts ranges from three to nine years. Information regarding award of contracts to new agencies and allotment of stalls during last three years is being obtained from Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and Zonal Railways. The information will be laid on the Table of the Sabha as and when the same is collected and compiled.

(e): Prices of standard meals, tea/coffee and breakfast are fixed by Railway Board taking into account the cost of raw materials, fuel, staff cost, packaging etc. Menu and tariff of a-la-carte food items are decided by IRCTC and Zonal Railways in a similar fashion. These prices are considered reasonable. Regular watch is kept to ensure that the catering licencees do not overcharge the passengers while selling standard and a-la-carte food items at stations and on trains. Action is taken against licencees overcharging railway passengers.