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Title: Need to monitor the quality of food items being served in trains and also regularize the services of helpers & vendors working at Railway platform stalls-laid.

SHRI HARIBHAU JAWALE (RAVER): The Railway authority has allotted the catering services to IRCTC for running trains and on Platform Stalls. For running trains the concept of Cell Kitchen has been introduced. It has been observed that there is no control on quality of food being served as it is made outside the Pantry Car.

The IRCTC has allotted private contractors for catering the services for the running trains through Cell Kitchen.

Further, IRCTC have leased out all the stalls at stations to big contractors and they in turn have sub contracted these stalls to some local people. The Helpers & Vendors who were working on these stalls since long with Railway authorization are facing lot of problems. Almost every Union from various Divisional levels have obtained the findings/judgments from the Labour Enforcement Officers directing IRCTC to absorb these Helpers & Vendors for time being on the subcontracted stalls against any new recruitments.

Through this Hon'ble House, I request the Union Minister of Railways to instruct the respective authority of IRCTC to find a solution for the Helpers & Vendors who are providing their services on Railway Platforms for more than 20 to 25 years. Their services should be regularized in railway Group Category 'D' as has been done in the case of Porters.