LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1359
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8.03.2007

SHORTAGE OF DRINKING WATER AT RAILWAY STATIONS

1359. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS (रेल मंत्री) be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of drinking water at various railway stations being faced by 98 per cent of the passengers; and

(b) the steps taken by the Railways to address the situation?.

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री)

(SHRI R. VELU)

(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.

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