

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3508  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2018**

**RAIL NEER**

**†3508. SHRI VIKRAM USENDI:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any decision to ensure supply of Rail Neer at all major railway stations and trains;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the sale of local brands and sub-standard bottled water at most of the railway stations and trains;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the action taken by the Government in this regard;**
- (e) whether there is likelihood of supply of Rail Neer being made mandatory by the Government and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and**
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to make available either safe drinking water or Rail Neer at all railway stations?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**(SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN)**

**(a) to (e): At present Rail Neer is mandatorily supplied to passengers of Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Duranto/Gatiman/Tejas/ Vistadome/ and other premium trains. There is also mandatory supply of Rail Neer in 281 pairs of trains and at more than 235 stations as**

**identified by Ministry of Railways from 05 Rail Neer Plants owned by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) located at Nangloi (Delhi), Danapur (near Patna), Palur (near Chennai) Ambernath (near Mumbai), Bilaspur (Chhatisgarh), and 02 plants under Public-Private Partnership mode (PPP) at Amethi(Uttar Pradesh) and Parassala (near Trivandrum).**

**At present, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is able to produce 22 crore bottles of Rail Neer annually from the 07 existing operational plants which covers 37 percent of requirement of Packaged Drinking Water (PDW) over Indian Railways. However, with the commissioning of 11 more plants, which is in pipe line, the coverage of Rail Neer Packaged Drinking Water (PDW) on Indian Railways will increase to 85 percent.**

**To cover the gap between supply and demand, Zonal Railways have been delegated powers to short list and empanel Bureau of Indian Standards(BIS) approved PDW brands of private companies to meet the demand of drinking water on stations and trains.**

**As only Rail Neer or other shortlisted BIS approved PDW brands of the empanelled private companies have been permitted for supply/sale on mobile units and at Railway stations through authorised static units, there has hardly been any complaint across Zonal Railways with regard to quality of the BIS approved PDW supplied to passengers. However, whenever complaints of unauthorised supply/sale of inferior quality of non approved brands of PDW are received, suitable action, including imposition of**

**monetary fines is taken as per rules against defaulting licensees depending on the gravity of the lapses.**

**(f): Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has installed approximately 1850 Water Vending Machines at 672 stations across the Indian Railway network for dispensing drinking water to passengers at affordable prices i.e 300 ml @ ₹1/- and 1 litre @ ₹5/-.**

**All Railway stations have provision of potable drinking water on platforms to meet the needs of rail passengers, free of cost. On most of the important stations, water cooler and chiller plants are also in operation for providing cool drinking water to passengers during summer season.**

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