

Need to restore the Railway concession for Senior Citizens-laid

DR. PON GAUTHAM SIGAMANI (KALLAKURICHI): Last 9 years price rise is the only gift this Government has given. Railways are also not spared. High fares, reduce sleeper coaches adds more misery to passengers. Rail fare went so high during festive season, (Diwali) Mumbai-Patna fare was ₹800 to ₹2,265 & 2AC to ₹9,000. IRCTC in RTI reply revealed that upto 1.4 crore passengers couldn't travel last 6 months, it also said with dynamic ticket pricing, rail fare equalled flight fare. Railways has been increasing non AC coaches and reducing sleeper coaches. Union Government has added huge burden to thousands of passengers travelling to hometowns for festivals. From 01.04.23 to 30.09.23 railway earned over ₹83.85 crore alone from 1.44 crore waitlisted passengers as cancellation charges. Premium Tatkal Fare was equal to flight. Senior citizens concession suspended in March 2020, due to COVID has not been restored till now, suspending this concession Railways has earned ₹2,242 crore between April 1, 2022 and March 30, 2023. This money has come from senior citizens. Total revenue from senior citizens during 2020-22 was ₹3,464 crore, which is ₹1,500 crore more earning to Railways. Hence, I urge the Railway Ministry to roll back the SR citizens concession and other demands.