

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2445
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2005
COMPETITION FROM LOW COST AIRLINES
Mohite Shri Subodh

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that some private airlines have introduced low cost routes, the fares of which are less than the fares of superfast trains;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has formulated any strategy to face the increasing competition from low cost airlines;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU)

(a) to (d): Railways are aware of the competition from the Airlines sector particularly due to low cost Airlines. No visible impact is, however, seen on railways passenger earnings which have shown an encouraging growth of over 8% during the first seven months of the current financial year. Railways have taken following steps to increase its passenger earnings:

- (i) By generating additional seating capacity in trains by introducing additional trains and by changing the profile of trains through Passenger Profile Management (PPM) project.
- (ii) By enhancing load of patronised trains to the maximum.
- (iii) By attaching additional coaches to clear waiting list.
- (iv) By improving utilisation of coaching stock so as to ward off the shortage of coaches.