

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3483
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2005
HANDLING OF PARCEL SERVICES
Karunakaran Shri P.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the new system adopted by the Railways to handover the parcel services and other good services has resulted in unemployment of the existing railway porters;
- (b) if so, whether the Government would reconsider the decision in the matter;
- (c) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (d) if not, the other alternative steps taken to provide employment to existing porters in the Railways?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) : A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3483 BY SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 15.12.2005 REGARDING HANDLING OF PARCEL SERVICES.

(a) to (d): With a view to maximize utilization of parcel space in Brake Vans of passenger carrying trains and to provide valued-added services to the rail customers, a scheme for leasing of parcel space in Brake Vans of passenger carrying trains has been introduced by the Indian Railways. Under the scheme, parcel space in Brake Vans of passenger carrying trains is leased out to private participants by inviting bids through open tenders. Loading / unloading of parcels is done by the lease holders. On the same concept, leasing of Parcel Vans on round trip basis by mail/express trains has also been introduced. Leasing is the most economical way of handling parcels as Railways are assured of full earning capacity of parcel space irrespective of the actual utilization of the space. The above system also has the advantage of ensuring a more passenger friendly atmosphere on platforms by reducing the cluster of parcel packages since lease holders are permitted to bring their consignments during train timings and load them directly in Brake Vans. In addition to above, Railways also save on cost on handling of parcels, documentations, marking and storage of parcels.

However, there is no proposal to curtail the existing work force of Parcel Porters.