

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4075  
ANSWERED ON:18.05.2006  
ISSUE OF METAL PASSES  
Bose Shri Subrata

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

- (a) whether any system of issuing metal passes to Members of the Railway Board or others in vogue in the Railways;
- (b) if so, since when the system is in existence in the Railways and the criteria fixed for issuing such passes;
- (c) the number of such passes issued during 2005-06;
- (d) whether such passes are also issued to the families of the Railway Board Members;
- (e) if so, on what terms and conditions and justification therefor;
- (f) the difference between metal and other free passes;
- (g) whether these passes remain valid even after their retirement; and
- (h) if so, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

- (a): Yes Sir. Issue of passes including metal passes to railway employees are governed in terms of provisions contained in Railway Servants (Pass) Rules, 1986 (Second Edition, 1993).
- (b): The system of issuing metal passes is in existence since the inception of Railways in India. Metal passes are issued to those officers whose nature of duty involves frequent journey on Indian Railway.
- (c): A total number of 122 metal passes have been issued during the year 2005-06.
- (d): Chairman and Members of Railway Board including the Financial Commissioner are issued metal passes (Gold passes) which are to be used by these officers while on duty. Metal passes are not issued independently to families of Railway officers. However, they are entitled to accompany the railway officer while on duty.
- (e): Does not arise
- (f): The basic difference between metal and free passes is that metal passes are minted and are issued to very senior Railway Officers for use while on duty whereas the other free passes are in form of card passes or cheque passes which are issued to other railway employees.
- (g): The metal passes are not valid after retirement of the officers.
- (h): Does not arise.