

Title : Regarding the plight of Licence porters working in Railway Stations.

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR (OTTAPALAM): Mr. Chairman Sir, there are about 1,50,000 licensed porters working in various Railway stations in the country who are fully dependent on the income from carrying luggage of the passengers. The previous NDA Government's decision to privatise the parcel booking service had already caused serious distress, as this had diminished the availability of work for the licensed porters.

20.00 hrs.

The present Government's decision to bring in new regulations in the area of luggage carrying by train passengers, reducing the quality by half, limiting quantity of luggage to 150 kilograms in Break Vans further aggravated the situation.

The licensed porters are appointed after thorough screening and police verification and a fixed amount as license fee is collected from them every month by the Railways. They are also being utilised for all kinds of other odd jobs as per the directives of the officials of the Railways, apart from their duty as porters. But, they are not provided any job security or statutory service benefits. The licensed porters are on a protest seeking redressal of their grievances by the Government.

I urge upon the Government to have sympathetic view of their plight of thousands of poor porters and their families and take appropriate measures to redress their grievances including withdrawal of contract labour in this area.