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Title : Threat to the livelihood of 1.5 lakh licensed railway porters due to new regulation in regard to carriage luggage by passengers and outsourcing of parcel service to private contractors.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Sir, there are about 1.5 lakh porters in Indian Railways. They have been engaged in the work of parcel service and also carrying the luggage of the passengers. Since the Railways have introduced a new policy, these porters are fully unemployed; and lakhs of family members of these poor porters are actually in a pathetic condition. It is due to the new policy that the Railways have undertaken, which is to entrust the parcel service to the private contracts. The period for that contract is also over, but still the Railways are now extending that time period. It seems that it is really a part of privatisation in the Railways.

As a result of this policy, lakhs of people who had been engaged in the Railways lost their job. The history of porters is that they have a very close relationship with the Indian Railways. I would request the Ministry to take up this issue. The Standing Committee on Railways has suggested to the Government to review the matter. So, I request the Government to review the issue and retain the situation that was prevailing in the Railways earlier. Thank you.