

Title: Problems being faced by the people of North East States particularly Assam due to withdrawal of 6% concession and enhancement of freight charges by Railways.

SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN : I would like to raise a very important issue. It is regarding price hike in North-eastern region. While the nation is fully concerned with the price hike the Central Government must not take any direct or indirect step by which price hike is promoted. In North-eastern region the Railway Department has directly or indirectly done two such things. I would like to mention those two things here.

In the first place there was an exemption of six per cent on the railway freight for North-eastern region. It has been withdrawn by the Railway Department. Secondly, Sir, though this year freight charge has not been increased but it has increased indirectly due to gradation or classification of goods. This has resulted in 11 per cent increase in the freight charges. I would urge upon the Central Government to withdraw 11 per cent hike, as also the classification and allow the North-eastern States to enjoy six per cent exemption on the Railway freight.