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Title: Regarding hike in cancellation charges of railway tickets.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD): Madam, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, regarding the amended ticket refund rules of the Indian Railways.

I do acknowledge that there are some positive aspects to these changed rules, but still there are many negative aspects and all the MPs have received so many complaints from passengers regarding the exorbitant rise in cancellation charges. In the case of reserved tickets, earlier, we could have cancelled the ticket even after the train left the station, but according to the amended rules there are three slabs and the last slab is cancellation in less than four hours time. According to the last slab, the cancellation charges have almost been doubled and almost the entire ticket fare will be taken as cancellation charges. So, this has caused great difficulty and problem for passengers, and we are receiving hundreds of complaints each and every day from passengers. This doubling of cancellation charges is nothing but exploitation of passengers, and this will not bring '*Ache Din*' to rail passengers.

So, I request the Government and the hon. Minister to give a re-look into the issue; reduce the cancellation charges; and to reinstate the old cancellation charges. Thank you very much, Madam.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Madam, please allow me to speak on this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: No. Do you want to associate?

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Yes,

Shri K. C. Venugopal wants to associate with this issue raised by Shri M. B. Rajesh.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER :

Shri Rajeev Satav,

Shrimati P.K. Shreemathi Teacher,

Shri Mullappally Ramchandran,

Shri P.K. Biju,

Adv. Joice George, and

Shri P.P. Chaudhary are also permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri M. B. Rajesh.