

Subsidy in Railway Freight on Perishable Products

9871. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railways allow subsidies in Railways' freight rates for carrying perishable fruits and similar other agricultural products, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether betel-leave are also taken as perishable agricultural products, if so, the concessions being provided to this commodity; and

(c) if no concession is given, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Perishables like fruits, vegetables, etc. are charged at Concessional Parcel (CP-2) Scale of rates which is about 50% of the General Parcel (GP) Scale of rates.

(b) Betel-leaves are charged at Concessional parcel (CP-1) Scale of rates which is about 80% of the General parcel Scale of rates.

(c) Does not arise.

Harassment by Ticketless Travellers in K.K.Express

9872. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of ticketless travellers of those who purchase second class tickets are harassing the travellers who reserve their seats and berths especially from Agra onwards in K.K. Express from Trivandrum to New Delhi;

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed by Government in this regard; and

(c) the amount collected as penalty from ticketless travellers in this particular train during the last four months?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Some instances have come to notice.

(b) Regular/intensive checks are being conducted to check the entry of unauthorised passengers in reserved coaches and persons found travelling unauthorisedly are dealt with in accordance with the provisions of India Railway Act.

(c) Train-wise details are not maintained.

Kuttipuram Guruvayoor Rail Line

9873. SHRI P.A. ANTONY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for setting up a railway link between Kuttipuram and Guruvayoor in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the present status thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) and (b). A survey was carried out for a BG rail line from Trichur to Kuttipuram via Guruvayood in 1981. Construction of the line between Trichur and Guruvayoor has only been approved for the present.

Charter Hiring of Rigs By ONGC

9874. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and natural Gas Commission has signed another contract for charter-hiring of two rigs with the Chowgules;

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement;