

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding restoration of concessional railway fares to senior citizens-laid.

**SHRI BENNY BEHANAN (CHALAKUDY):** The Indian Railways had suspended concessional fares for senior citizens travelling in trains. It may be recalled that out of the total population of 136 crores of the country 10% of the population totaling 13 crores are senior citizens belonging to 60 + category. This category of citizens have been facing various hardships in their lives. It may also be noted that this is the category which has been worst hit by Covid pandemic.

It is the bounden duty of the Government to protect the interest of vulnerable section of the population. But it is most unfortunate that instead of protecting this section of the population especially in the period of Covid, the Government has left this section of the people in the lurch by stopping the concessional fare allowed to them in the railways travel. It may be recalled that it is the very same Government which had brought about a bill in 2019 aimed at the maintenance and the welfare of senior citizens.

It is highly paradoxical that the Government which brought about the bill aimed at welfare of senior citizen is withdrawing the benefits being given to them.

So I forcefully appeal to the Government that it is the duty of the Government to protect senior citizen of the country. In this context I request the Government to restore the concessional fares to the senior citizens.