

Regarding restoration of Railway concession to Artists-laid

SHRI LAVU SRIKRISHNA DEVARAYALU (NARASARAOPET): Before the pandemic, artists, whether performing solo or in groups (dance, music, theater, magic, etc.), enjoyed a substantial 50-75% concession in railway fare. This included a 75% concession in second class and Sleeper classes, and a 50% concession for 1st class, AC chair car, 3 AC, and 2 AC. Unfortunately, the suspension of 38 out of 53 concession categories, including those for artists, has exacerbated the financial challenges faced by both senior citizens and artists alike. The financial impact of this concession suspension, totalling ₹5,062 crore solely for the senior citizens category, underscores the gravity of the situation. The struggle of senior citizens, who also constitute a significant portion of those affected, cannot be understated, as many are finding it difficult to travel for essential needs and family engagements. With the upcoming 26th January celebrations, and other significant cultural events on the horizon, restoring these concessions is crucial. Thus, it is imperative for the Ministry to recognize the shared struggle of artists and senior citizens during these challenging times. Therefore, I urge upon the Honourable Minister of Railways to reconsider this suspension, providing crucial financial relief to artists and senior citizens alike.