

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:560
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2002
RACKET OF TOUTS
KAILASH MEGHWAL

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of the news-item published in the Hindi daily `Dainik Jagran` dated September 30, 2002 captioned `Railway par havi kalal` wherein it has been reported that rackets of touts are active in the railway service not only on reservation counters but are also at parcel booking and delivery centres;
- (b) whether these touts are so dominant even at ordinary ticket counters a common man is unable to buy tickets despite queuing up for several hours and is compelled to buy tickets from these touts at higher rates for fear of losing his train;
- (c) whether owing to this problem the share of railways in the goods transportation is declining day by day despite the transportation rates of goods and parcel being lesser in compare to the transportation by trucks;
- (d) if so, whether his Government propose to formulate any strategy of taking comprehensive action instead of conducting symbolic raids; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): No, Sir.

(c): No, Sir.

(d) & (e): Apart from regular and surprise checks at various locations, Railways are taking continuous steps for technological upgradation as well as improving the capacity to bridge the gap between demand and supply by augmenting existing trains, introducing new trains and running of specials during rush periods. Ticket purchasing is being made easier by extending computerised reservation facility on a continuous basis besides introduction of reservation on the internet. An Unreserved Ticketing System has been implemented in Delhi area whereby unreserved tickets can be bought 30 days in advance.