

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:846

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2001

SPECIAL PARCEL TRAINS

ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;LAXMAN GILUWA;RAMSHETH THAKUR

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Railways are considering to do away with the brake vans on passenger trains and replace them with special parcel trains on selected routes;

(a) if so, the details thereof;

(b) the routes identified thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that railways spend more on the parcel business but earn less from it;

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Railways to make up the losses suffered as a result thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL)

(a): No, Sir.

(b) & (c): Do not arise.

(d): Yes, sir.

(e): Railways carry a number of essential commodities of mass consumption at special concessional rates like fruits, vegetables & Newspapers/Magazines so as to reduce the burden on the common man. The concessional rates are 50% to 77% lower than the General Parcel Seale (GPS) applicable for hard parcels. This service obligation is primarily responsible for loses sustained.

(f): Railways have been taken a number of steps to enhance earning from parcel service. These include leasing-out of front SLRs (brake vans), leasing of round trip V P (parcel vans), running of commodity specific specials to cater to peak seasonal demand including mango specials, banana specials, chikoo specials and point to point, nominated day, guaranteed-transit high- capacity VP (Parcel Vans) specials on inter-metro routes under the newly launched Millenium Parcel Service.