

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5116
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2005
DISCONTINUATION OF PARCEL BOOKING IN EXPRESS TRAINS
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to discontinue booking of railway parcels in the express trains;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the name of the trains in which booking of railway parcels have been discontinued;
- (d) whether the Government is considering to increase the timings of stoppage of express trains and restore parcel booking facility at such railway stations of commercial importance of the country where the facility has been discontinued due to stoppage of express trains for a very short time; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) to (e) : In the larger public interest and for the convenience and safety of traveling public, maintenance of punctuality of trains and reduction in the transit time of parcels, booking and carriage of parcel traffic was rationalised in February 2004. The rationalisation does not permit booking of parcels by such Mail/Express trains which have stoppage time of less than five (5) minutes at intermediate stations to avoid over-carriage of parcels and to maintain punctuality of trains. This rationalisation has been resorted to reduce the overall transit time of parcels through end-to-end movement by different trains providing faster and better services. In fact, there is an indirect savings from avoidance of claims for compensation which had become an essential feature of the erstwhile system of booking & carriage of parcels. In the interest of traveling public and also in the interest of trade, it is not feasible to withdraw the rationalisation. However, stoppage time of some of the Express trains has been increased wherever it is found operationally feasible.