

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2480
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2005
GROWTH RATE OF PASSENGERS EARNINGS
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Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that growth rate of passengers earnings has not been commensurate with the growth rate of passengers ;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to attract more passengers and to plug the leakage of revenue through rampant corruption in passenger related areas; and
- (d) the strategy chalked out by the Government to break the nexus of corrupt railway officials, touts and agents ?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The growth rate in number of passengers and that in passenger earnings, generally do not tally as growth in number of passengers shows the numerical increase whereas the earnings depend upon a number of factors viz. the increase in the distance travelled by the passengers, the increase in type of passengers like suburban/non suburban or lower class/upper class etc.

(c) Following steps have been taken to plug the leakage of revenue in passenger related areas: -

i) To improve the ticket dispensation new schemes like Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS), reservation through internet, reservation through mobile phones, e-ticketing have been introduced.

ii) Additional seating capacity in trains is being generated by introducing additional trains and by changing the profile of trains through Passenger Profile Management (PPM) project.

iii) The load of patronised trains is being enhanced to the maximum.

iv) Additional coaches are being attached to clear waiting list.

v) Innovative ticket checking strategies such as setting up of "intensive check posts" at divisions and "nominated hour ticket checking" by Railway officers have been introduced.

vi) Regular intensive drives are conducted by mobilizing large number of ticket checking staff in association with Police, Magistrates.

vii) Penalty for ticket less traveling has also been enhanced from Rs.50 to Rs.250 w.e.f. 1st July 2004 which has a deterrent effect on ticket less traveling.

(d) Besides conducting surprise checks and imposing punishment in substantiated cases, railway employees holding sensitive posts are transferred periodically to break the nexus.