

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5818  
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2007  
REPLACEMENT OF GUARDS LINE BOXES WITH BRIEFCASE  
Khaira Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Rathod Shri Harisingh Nasaru

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

- (a) whether the Railways have recently replaced guard's line boxes with briefcase;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether such replacement is likely to affect the safety measures;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether there was strong objections from All India Guards Council and other association of railways in this regard;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether the box porters are likely to become jobless; and
- (h) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Railways to safeguard their interest?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (f) With a view to improve operational efficiency instructions were issued on 20.06.2006 to Zonal Railways for replacement of Guard Line Box with briefcase. However due to certain difficulties pointed out by recognized Federations, the instructions have been put in abeyance till they are revised appropriately. Further since the replacement of line box with briefcase, amounts to only switching over from one type of container to another, to carry the same equipment as are to be carried in a line box, it has no bearing on safety.

(g) & (h) The scheme does not envisage any retrenchment of staff as redeployment is always considered.