

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:570

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2005

BAN ON LICENSED PORTERS FROM HANDLING PARCELS

Ajaya Kumar Shri S.;Sujatha Smt. C.S.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railway Board has issued orders banning the licensed porters from handling parcels ;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has considered the adverse impact of this decision on the livelihood of lakhs of porters dependent on the parcels movement ; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of the porters?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD)

(a) to (d) : The licensed porters are given licenses for carrying passengers` luggage for which they get portorage charges directly from the passengers, which are revised from time to time. Though they were allowed to be utilised for parcel handling work for short periods only, their main livelihood continued to be carrying passengers` luggage. On most of the Zonal Railways, licensed porters are satisfactorily carrying on their job except on a few Railways where some Court Cases are involved.