

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3364
ANSWERED ON:24.03.2005
PARCEL BOOKING CENTRES
Manoj Dr. K.S.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any decision to close down Parcel Booking Service Counters at the Railway Stations;
- (b) if so, the reasons there for;
- (c) the number of such centres closed down during 2004-05, State-wise;
- (d) the loss of revenue suffered as a result of such closure;
- (e) the number of Porters becoming unemployed as a result thereof;
- (f) whether the Government has made any arrangements for the rehabilitation/redeployment of these Porters; and (
- g) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

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

(a) to (g) : Parcel booking service centres have not been closed by Railways. However, in the larger public interest and for the convenience and safety of travelling 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 restriction does not apply to Ordinary Passenger 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. Luggage has, however, been exempted from the purview of rationalisation. Therefore, the question of resultant unemployment of porter does not arise.