

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:584  
ANSWERED ON:11.11.2010  
SHORTAGE OF PORTERS  
Pakkirappa Shri S.

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

- (a) whether due to diversion of licensed porters as gangmen by Railways, there is continuing shortage of porters in the country, particularly at big stations, causing extreme hardship to the passengers, particularly women and the elders;
- (b) whether the senior railway officials are not interested to recruit suitable number of porters for vested interest and existing porters are charging exorbitantly from the helpless passengers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken by the Railways thereon?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA)

- (a): Consequent to absorption of licensed porters as Gangmen, some vacancies had arisen in the category of licensed porters. Approximately 748 of these Gangmen have opted to come back, so far. In addition, 2765 licensed porters have been newly engaged to meet the convenience of the passengers.
- (b)& (c): No, Madam. Railways have already re-assessed the requirement and engaged 2765 licensed porters, so far. Some cases of overcharging do come to notice occasionally.
- (d): Frequent checks are conducted to keep a watch on the functioning of licensed porters and those found indulging in overcharging are suitably taken up.