

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2726  
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2009  
IMPACT OF CHEAPER AIRFARE ON PASSENGER TRAFFIC IN RAILWAYS  
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether the airlines have given Railways a tough competition by reducing their fares drastically;
- (b) if so, the extent to which volume of passenger traffic has been affected due to cheaper airfare; and
- (c) the strategy chalked out by the Railways to deal with the competitive signal given by the aviation sector?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): Railways and Airlines are not strictly comparable as they serve largely different passenger market segments. Indian Railways are lifeline of the nation; carrying 18 million passengers per day including 10 million suburban passengers. Every day Railways run 10385 trains, including 8248 suburban/passenger trains. Railways are more energy efficient and environment-friendly.

Some of the steps taken by Railways to meet the ever-growing passenger transportation demands are—introduction of additional trains including non-stop Duronto trains; enhancing carrying capacity of more popular trains; enlarging facilities for sale of both reserved and unreserved tickets, including proliferation of e-ticketing system.