

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4399
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2012
FATE OF LICENSED PORTERS
Kurup Shri N.Peethambara

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways are aware of the problems faced by the licensed porters of Indian Railways due to the entrustment of private agencies for loading and unloading of booked goods and articles ;
- (b) if so, the necessary steps taken by the Railways to ensure that the licensed porters may earn sufficient money for their sustenance; and
- (c) the details of welfare measures initiated/being initiated by the Railways for the benefit of these porters?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b): Licensed porters are licensees who are granted licenses for carrying passengers' luggage & parcel. They are entitled to collect portorage directly from the passengers for carrying the same. Hence, parcel/ booked goods handling does not affect the earnings of licensed porters.
- (c): Licensed porters are not railway employees. However, the following measures have been taken for the welfare of licensed porters:
- (i) Licensed porters are eligible for outdoor medical facilities in Railway hospitals for self, wife and dependent children.
 - (ii) One set of privilege pass for self only and one set of Privilege Ticket Order (PTO) for self and spouse in second/ sleeper class are given to licensed porters once in a year to enable them travel from the station of working to any station on Indian railways and back.
 - (iii) Free educational facilities have been extended to the wards of licensed porters in the schools run by the railways/railwaymen organization/Mahila Samities.
 - (iv) Two red shirts are supplied every year as uniform and one woollen shirt is also given to them once in two years in lieu of one red shirt.
 - (v) Rest rooms are provided at various important stations where there are substantial numbers of licensed porters.