

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2491
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2009
COMPETITION FROM LOW COST AIRLINES
Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have evolved any policy to meet the competition from the low cost private airlines; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the other initiatives taken by the Railways to attract more passengers?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): 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.