

Title: Request to provide Identity Cards and other concessions to the Railway hawkers and job priorities to the contract labours by the Railway authorities.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (TAMLUK): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to raise an issue relating to railway hawkers. More than a million poor people and *garib* hawkers are maintaining their livelihood by hawking. But unfortunately, as they have not been provided with any Identity Cards, they are becoming the victims of the police harassment. Atrocities are being inflicted on them. So, they are bound to suffer from their livelihood.

Sir, not only that, there are thousands and thousands of contract labours under the railway authorities who are not getting the minimum wages and other facilities as per the Contract Labour Act. So, whenever any vacancy arises there in the Railways, I think, they should be given some priorities because they are working since long, and they are not getting their wages. They are getting scanty wages. The facilities are not provided to them.

So, I request, through you, to the hon. Minister of Railways to provide Identity Cards to the railway hawkers and also give some other concessions so that they can maintain their livelihood, and not put to harassment and atrocities of police. The contract labours should be given priorities by the railway authorities in the matter of employment. They should be given wages and other benefits as per the Contract Labour Act. Thank you.