

Title: Need to restore Hometown Leave Travel concession benefits for all the Central Government employees-Laid.

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (TIRUPPATTUR) : Leave Travel concession available to the Union Government staff biennially for Hometown and once in four years for Bharat Darshan has been suspended for two years by the Union Finance Minister. Though the measure exempts officials on the verge of retirement, it needs to be further flexible on humanitarian grounds. There are employees of the Union Government working in the National Capital hailing from the Southern States and North Eastern State where family bonds and values are more strong both culturally and traditionally. They need to go to their hometowns at least once in two years. The suspension at this juncture may not only deprive the Central staff a benefit just for two years as announced but in reality a benefit availed just once or twice in a period of four years in many cases. Since a vast majority of the hometown LTC travel are made by rail, hometown LTC may be continued without suspending the same by way of providing Railway Travel warrants. The loss to Railways may also be offset then.

Hence, I urge upon both the Union Finance Ministry and the Railway Ministry to evolve a way out to continue the Hometown LTC benefits for all the Union Government employees.