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Title : Regarding concessional tickets to physically handicapped persons for rail journeys.

SHRI M. SHIVANNA (CHAMRAJANAGAR): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this very important issue regarding Indian Railways. The Hon. Minister Shri Lalu Prasad ji has implemented number of progressive changes.

Railway tickets are available at concessional rates for the physically challenged persons. Smoking has been completely banned at the Railway stations and Railway offices. He has introduced small pots instead of plastic cups. Indigenous drinks have replaced Campa-cola, Coco-cola etc. I thank him very much for this.

16.03 hrs. (Shrimati Krishna Tirath *in the Chair*)

Sir, I would like to point out certain important problems of the physically challenged persons. This is regarding "**The persons with disabilities (equal opportunities, protection of rights and full participation) Act. 1995**" which was passed by the Parliament ten years ago. The Union Government introduced an amendment about six years ago to insert certain provisions in this Act. This amendment has not seen the light of the day till today. I request the Hon. Minister to expedite this matter and clear this amendment by the parliament as early as possible.

Another, problem is about the concessional tickets that are available for the physically challenged persons. The physically challenged persons can avail this concession in few trains like passengers, and other shuttle trains. This concession

facility for the physically challenged persons is not at all available in SHATABDI EXPRESS, SAMPARKA KRANTI EXPRESS, RAJDHANI EXPRESS and other important trains. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister as to why this discrimination is prevailing even now? I request him through you sir, that this concession facility for physically challenged persons should be made available in

* English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

all the trains mentioned above and other super fast express trains also with immediate effect.

I hope the Hon. Minister will consider this genuine demand and issue necessary orders very soon such that the physically challenged persons can travel in all the trains with their concessional tickets. I thank you sir, and with these words I conclude my speech.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಶಿವಣ್ಣ (ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ) : ...