

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Need to adopt pro-poor policy by Indian Railways.

SHRI IDRIS ALI (BASIRHAT): Hon. Speaker Madam, I am highly grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to raise a very urgent matter of public importance.

Hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee, people's energy, the heart beat of the poorest of the poor - a leader who always feels for the people - had introduced Izzat monthly season tickets for Rs. 25 for persons working in the unorganized sector with a monthly income not exceeding Rs. 1,500 to facilitate their travel up to a distance of 100 kilometres to earn bread and butter for their families. The present Government has withdrawn the scheme of certification and the social status of the poor people of the country. In my opinion, this is very unfortunate.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India has slammed Indian Railways in its Performance Audit where their findings are of unpurified tap water being used to make beverages, uncovered and unwashed waste bins, food left out in the open, and rats and cockroaches at catering units in trains, and stations serving such bad and poor quality food. Under the banner of IRCTC, the food preparation and food distribution, along with the base kitchens, has been privatized by the present Central Government.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kaushalendra Kumar.

SHRI IDRIS ALI : Madam, I will take only one minute. May you live long, Your Honour.

Madam, in spite of the Khanna Railway Safety Committee Report regarding thousands of over-aged wagons and coaches ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You put your demand.

SHRI IDRIS ALI : I wish to speak my last sentence.

* Respected Madam, I would just like to say that our Hon. Chief Minister Smt. Mamata Banerjee is doing a lot for the poor people of the state and she is one of the most popular leaders of the country. Whatever steps she has taken in the interest of the common people should be continued. The Central Government is trying to take anti-people steps which should be opposed. The IZZAT scheme should be continued and the railway services should be improved. Thank you.

