

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 27.11.2009
ANSWERED ON
SHORTAGE OF PORTERS .

1049

SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA

Will the Minister of COAL RAILWAYS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that due to diversion of licensed porters as gangmen by Railways, there is continuing shortage of porters in the country, particularly at big stations, causing extreme hardship to the passengers, particularly women and the elderly;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that senior railway officials are not interested to recruit suitable number of porters for vested interest and existing porters are charging exorbitantly from the helpless passengers; and
- (c) whether Government would solve the problem in a time-frame for the welfare of the traveling persons; if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) to (c) : Consequent to absorption of licensed porters as Trackmen, some vacancies had arisen in the category of licensed porters. Railways have already initiated the process of assessing the vacancies and engaging additional licensed porters, wherever required, at the railway stations. The availability of licensed porters is also ensured through redeployment within the division. To overcome the problem of exploitation by the licensed porters, regular checks are conducted at stations. The badges of the licensed porters involved in such activities are impounded/suspended.