

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1705  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2022**

**ISSUES OF CATERING VENDING LICENSEES**

**1705. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:  
SHRI SANJAY JADHAV:  
SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT:**

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

**(a) whether the Ministry of Railways has received representations/ memorandum from Akhil Bhartiya Railway Khan-Pan Licensees Welfare Association (regd.) as well as Hon'ble Member of Parliament highlighting the plight of small catering vending licensees/vendors, during 2020- 21 and 2021-22, if so, the details thereof;**

**(b) whether issues viz., loss of business/ earnings/ loss of material/ stocks, forgoing license fee, for Covid-19 period and compensation, abolition of heavy levy of GST as well as grant of renewals of license of individual licensees as of others have been brought to the notice of the Ministry; and**

**(c) if so, the reaction of the Government to compensate small licensees/ vendors for their survival?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND  
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

**(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. Representations from Akhil Bhartiya Railway Khan-Pan Licensees Welfare Association (regd.) as well as Hon'ble Members of Parliament have been received during 2020- 21 and 2021-22 vide which relief for minor static unit vendors to deal with Covid related hardship have been sought.**

**.....2/-**

**These included relief in licence fee, relaxation in periodicity for deposit of licence fee, renewal of licences of minor catering units, scrapping of the tendering system envisaged in Catering Policy 2017, relaxations in GST on licence fee, permission for sale of packed items on Fruit/ Juice stalls, platform vending permission, use of cooking gas on platforms and supply of electricity on subsidised rates. These representations/ suggestions have been examined on merit and action taken accordingly.**

**(c): Indian Railways has taken various measures to ease the hardship faced by small licensees/ vendors during COVID pandemic, which are as under:**

**(i). The period for which stalls were non- operational during the Covid pandemic was treated as 'Dies-Non' and the contracts were extended accordingly.**

**(ii). Relief in licence fee was given to the licensees taking into account the reduction in traffic volume and passenger footfall at stations.**

**(iii). Performance security deposit has been reduced from 10% of total contract value to 3% of the same till 31.03.2023.**

**(iv). Sale of packed items on Fruit/Juice stalls has been allowed to enhance sales potential.**

**(v). Zonal Railways have been delegated powers to grant platform vending permissions to the licensee of the minor static catering units.**

**(vi). Instructions were issued vide Commercial Circular 22 dated 15.03.2017 to implement Hon'ble Supreme Court's directive vide its judgement dated 29.01.2016, which allowed renewal of only one stall to licensee for maintaining livelihood. Subsequently, Hon'ble Supreme Court's vide Judgement dated 30.10.2018 in Writ Petition (C) No. 373 of 2017, directed to renew all licences held by the Cooperative Societies, Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) and partnership firms which have been implemented.**

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