

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 56
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2015**

RAILWAY PORTERS

***56. SHRI C.N. JAYDEVAN:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of licensed porters in railways, zone-wise along with job profile assigned to them;**
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Railways has issued a circular prohibiting licensed railway porters from handling parcels at the stations impacting porters in various States including Kerala;**
- (c) whether the railways has outsourced its parcel job causing great hardship to the licensed porters; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU)**

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 56 BY SHRI C.N.JAYADEVAN TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 02.12.2015 REGARDING RAILWAYS PORTERS.

(a): Zone-wise strength of licensed porters, who are authorized to handle the luggage of passengers in station premises, is as under:

S.No	Zonal Railways	No. of Licensed Porters
01	Central Railway	1022
02	Eastern Railway	1859
03	East Central railway	1827
04	East Coast Railway	949
05	Northern Railway	4167
06	North Central Railway	1129
07	North Eastern Railway	557
08	Northeast Frontier Railway	959
09	North Western Railway	630
10	Southern Railway	1538
11.	South Central Railway	1179
12	South Eastern Railway	382
13.	South East Central Railway	618
14	South Western Railway	732
15	Western Railway	1613
16.	West Central Railway	601
	Total	19762

(b): Standing instructions regarding licensed porters not to be utilised for parcel handling work at railway stations have been in force since long.

(c) & (d): Presently, parcels booked over Indian Railways are handled either through departmental labour or through contractual labour. At stations where departmental parcel porters (Hamals) are not provided, parcels are being handled by contract labour, i.e. arranged by a Contractor for a specified period on terms and conditions incorporated in the contractual agreement. Therefore, the question of causing hardship to the licensed porters, on this account, does not arise.
