

(c) if so, what action Government have taken against those ticketless travellers who perform their journeys with the active cooperation of the Railway staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The small traders travel from Tundla, Shikohabad and Aligarh to New Delhi station with Monthly Season Tickets or proper journey tickets and not without ticket. No complaint has been received that these passengers force the bonafide passengers to vacate their seats and occupy the same on these routes. However, a few complaints of daily commuters travelling in sleeper Class coaches are received. Regular and surprise checks are conducted on these routes and the person detected travelling irregularly are dealt with under the provisions of the Railways Act, 1989. Any complaint about connivance of Railway staff with the ticketless/irregular travellers is also seriously viewed and defaulters taken up under Discipline & Appeal Rules.

Settlement of Railway Claims for Compensation

2725. CHAUDHARY CHUNNI LAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target period to settle the railway claim for compensation by the railway claim department and also by the Refund Branch in respect of demurrage and wharfage charges;

(b) the policy of refund in cases of demurrage and wharfage charges;

(c) how many cases have been registered in the years 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 in the Northern Railway Refund Offices; and

(d) the details of the pending refund cases of cement goods, company-wise and calender year-wise from 1994 to 1998 with the reasons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The target period within which different types of Railway Claims should be settled, are as under:

- (i) Claims for non- : 6 months
delivery of
wagons/
complete
consignments
- (ii) Partial non- : 4 months
delivery of
complete
packages
- (iii) Shortage/ : 3 months
Damage/
Breakage etc.

No target period has been laid down for the settlement of refund cases in respect of demurrage/wharfage charges.

(b) Demurrage or wharfage charges are levied as a deterrent measure against detention to wagons and occupation of railway wharf or godown beyond the permitted Free Time. Under specific circumstances, the charges can be waived, partially or fully by the competent authority depending on the merit of such cases. If the parties have made the payment of charges, before a final decision is taken, refund could be given for waived amount.

(c) The total number of cases registered in the Northern Railway Refund Office for the last four years is given below:

Years	No. of cases registered
1994-1995	11908
1995-1996	11149
1996-1997	11964
1997-1998	12904

(d) A statement is attached.

Statement

(d) The details of the pending refund cases of Cement Goods Company-wise and Calendar year wise from 1994 to 1998 with the seasons, are as under:—

S. No.	Name of the Party	Year				
		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
1.	M/s. Maihar Cement	—43	5	195	69	59
2.	M/s. Larsen & Toubro	—	30	—	—	—
3.	M/s. J. K. Udaipur Udyog	—	1	27	107	414
4.	M/s. Grover Bhutani	—	9	—	30	68
5.	M/s. Goel Tondon	—	35	—	118	—
6.	M/s. Modi Cement	—	—	13	—	—
7.	M/s. Birla Jute	—	—	22	250	3
8.	M/s. Haryana Associates	—	—	—	28	—
9.	M/s. Raymond Limited	—	—	—	64	44
10.	M/s. ACC Cement	—	—	—	27	—
11.	M/s. Diamond Cement	—	—	—	35	—
12.	M/s. Cement Combined	—	—	—	76	52
13.	M/s. Shri Ram Cement	—	—	—	101	133
14.	M/s. Gangam Enterprises	—	—	—	26	—
15.	M/s. R. L. Sales	—	—	—	—	36
16.	M/s. Vikram Cement	—	—	—	—	9
17.	M/s. J. K. Cement Works	—	—	73	129	65
18.	M/s. Shree Cement Ltd.	—	—	—	128	—
19.	M/s. Swastic Sales Corpn.	—	—	—	—	38
20.	M/s. D. L. F. Cement	—	—	—	327	—
(TOTAL NO. OF COMPANIES = 20)		43	80	330	1515	921

Reasons:—

Delay in settlement of cases is mainly due to non-submission of documents by the parties like money receipt, letter of authority and detailed statements duly signed by the concerned goods supervisors etc. After receipt of documents in the refund office, position is cross-checked from the concerned station/division and this process takes some time. However, all out efforts are made to settle the cases at the earliest on receipt of documents from the parties.

Facilities at Ernakulam Junction

2726. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware that Ernakulam Junction is a busy station and the facilities are very inadequate; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to improve the facilities including the parking for vehicles and waiting of passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Adequate facilities commensurate with the volume of traffic handled including circulating area and waiting facilities have been provided at Ernakulam Junction. As a measure to ease the rush, a work to provide second entry, has been included in the works programme at an estimated cost of Rs. 63.50 lakh.