

To,

1) The Honourable Minister for Railways
Government of India,
Rail Bhavan, New Delhi

2) The Honourable Minister of Transport
State Government of Andhra Pradesh
Hyderabad

Subject : Immediate Withdrawal of increase in Railway and Bus tickets, similarly increase in Railway platform tickets effected on the occasion of Makarankranti

Respected Sirs,

Magh Mela is one of the most important religious festivals of Hindus. Every year, lakhs of devotees visit Pushkaralu Mela during the period between Makarsankranti to Mahashivratra. On the occasion of Magh Mela, the Andhra Pradesh Government has taken the decision to recover extra surcharge from devotees who travel by public transport.

1. The South-Central Railway has increased the charges for platform tickets by Rs. 10 to 20 during the crowded season due to Makarsankranti and Sabarimala Temple. Similarly, for the facility extended to devotees for transport, special trains and buses would be run; however, for these two conveyance facilities, the rates have been increased by 30 to 50%.

2. On the one hand, the Government gives subsidy to Muslim community worth crores of rupees for making Haj pilgrimage in the forms of subsidised airfare, special medical care, and building Haj houses with the money collected from the majority Hindus as taxes, on the other, during Hindus' religious festivals, the Government increases rail and bus fares, apply surcharge, etc., which is very unfortunate and needs to be strongly protested.

3. When it is expected that all citizens of the country will be treated equally in the prevalent secular governing system, lakhs of Hindu devotees would be put to a large financial loss. The above decision is religious discrimination and the effort to put restrictions on the religious festivals of Hindus which has hurt the religious sentiments of Hindus.

We are, therefore, raising the following demands -

1. The Government should immediately withdraw the increase in rail and bus fares for Magh Mela and Makarsankranti.
2. Essential facilities should be provided to the devotees at the places of religious festivals
3. The Indian citizens should not be provided facilities based on the religion, but equal facilities should be extended to all citizens. For this purpose implement 'Uniform Civil Code' in the country.

Yours Faithfully,

Contact no.