

Indian Railways is often called the lifeline of the nation. It not only transports passengers and goods, but it also connects the entire nation into a common thread. Almost all Indians are directly or indirectly connected to the Indian Railways.

Indian Railways directly provides jobs to over 13 lakh employees and it also provides a means of living to many more lakh people in this country. Amongst the latter group there are many licensed and unlicensed hawkers who are earning their livelihood because of Indian Railways. These hawkers want more access to the railway premises. On the other hand, there are passenger associations which time and again raise the demand about regulating of unauthorized hawking in Indian Railways. They claim that many times these hawkers are seen selling prohibited items like tobacco and occupying spaces in railways stations, coaches and foot-over bridges which becomes a safety hazard and restricts movement of bonafide passengers.

There is a felt need for a policy which takes into consideration the interest of all stake holders. The policy needs to provide social justice to the hawkers and at the same time it should not lead to operational bottle necks. Suggestions are invited from all the stake holders to help the Indian Railways in drafting of a policy on hawking in Indian Railways which is holistic and addresses the concerns of all in an effective manner. It is requested that your suggestions may be sent to hawkerpolicy2016@gmail.com latest by 31st March, 2016.