

Removal of Alarm Chain Apparatus

*2193. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad** : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have removed alarm chain apparatus from some trains on the North-Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan) : (a) Alarm chain apparatus has been blanked off on six trains on the Katihar-barauni section of the Muzaffarpur Region of the N. E. Railway.

(b) Due to frequent misuse of this means of communication by passengers.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : Could we know what provisions are there for the travelling public after the removal of this safety device to save themselves from anti-social elements and other undesirable persons travelling in trains?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan : the hon. Member would appreciate that the Railway Ministry is in a very difficult position. If we do not run the train to correct timings, we are criticised in Parliament and elsewhere; if we remove the chains, then also the hon. Member criticises us. So I think the best thing is to see that this evil of pulling chains is eliminated by the efforts of the hon. Member and others.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : Could the hon. Parliamentary Secretary tell us if there is any provision in the railway rules to prosecute those who are criminals, instead of punishing everyone who travels in the train?

Mr. Speaker : He is entering into an argument.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : May I know if Government have examined this question, that the report of chain pulling sent to the higher authorities is exaggerated, and this is done to cover up other reasons for late running of trains?

Mr. Speaker : Order, order. These are all arguments. He may ask for information.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary : May I know whether Government have received any report from that region as to whether the pulling of alarm chains has decreased since the introduction of this measure?

Shri C. D. Pande : The chain is not there. (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker : Order, order.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary : May I know whether the running of trains to scheduled time has improved due to the removal of the alarm chains?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan : This is a very recent measure that we have adopted, and I am sure that in course of time the running of trains would improve.

Some hon. Members rose —

Mr. Speaker : We will go to the next question.

Shri B. N. Misra : May I put a supplementary question? My name is linked up with the questioner's name.

Mr. Speaker : In my copy here, the hon. Member's name is not linked up. Otherwise, I would have called him.

Shri B. N. Misra : I can prove that it is so.

Mr. Speaker : Order, order. We will go to the next question.

Travelling on Roofs

*2194. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary** : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number of deaths occasioned by the traveling of passengers on roofs of trains since March, 1955, on the North Eastern Railway?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan) : Nil upto 15-9-1955.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary : May I know whether Government have received any complaint about passengers travelling on roofs being hurt by the overbridges at stations?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan : Occasionally this thing comes to the notice of Government, especially when there is a mela season or when there is rush of marriages. Travelling on the roofs of trains is prohibited by law.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary : May I know whether any prosecutions have been launched for travelling on roofs on trains within these six months?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan : We take a lenient view of it.

Shri M. D. Joshi : From the previous question and the present question, it appears that these antics occur only on the North Eastern Railway. What categories of passengers are in the habit of indulging in these antics?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan : It is true that there is shortage of coaching stock on the North Eastern Railway, and it is inevitable that on some occasions, there should be travelling on roofs. We are