

st Just 15 days back a train from Barcelona kept running without driver up to 140 kilometres. Other incidents like failure of Locomotive and robbery occur frequently on the North Eastern and Northern Railway. What steps are being taken by the Government in this regard and how much loss (in crores of rupees) has been suffered by the Railways?

MR. SPEAKER : This is human failure. He has already answered that.

[English]

SHRI SOBHANA DREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, in Andhra Pradesh, because of increase in Naxalite activities, several times, they are damaging the properties of the Railways. Sometimes it so happens that passengers are also suffering and a large number of people died in a fire accident, caused by the Naxalites. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of similar such incidents taking place in other parts and recently near Bheemavaram, where an incident had taken place in which one first class passenger died. Will the Minister take suitable steps to compensate such victims who are travelling in the Railway trains? (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot make a speech Shri Rao, during the question hour. There are others who want to ask questions.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : We do have a scheme that if any passenger dies during an accident or in any similar such manner, compensation of Rs. 2 lakhs is paid for the dead by the Claims Settlement Tribunal.

Late Running of Mail Trains

*310. DR. SUDHIR RAY : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Express, Mail and Superfast trains often run late, throughout the country; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures contemplated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Maintaining punctuality of trains is an ongoing continuous effort.

DR. SUDHIR RAY: The Minister has made an evasive statement because for the last six months, almost all the superfast Express trains are running and arriving six or seven hours late, everyday. In fact, they have doubled the Rail fare. These Express trains do not run even at the speed of 50 Kms per hour, but the Government is raising the surcharge on the passengers. I would like to know from the Minister what steps he is taking so that the trains run punctually?

MR. SPEAKER : He has already answered that question.

DR. SUDHIR RAY: No Sir, he has not answered and he has to reply to my question.

MR. SPEAKER: Apart from your taking regular steps, are there any extra steps being taken to see that the trains run on time?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : Sir, the punctuality depends on various factors. The hon. Member has said that the punctuality is suffering. From first of July, we have started monitoring the punctuality of the trains. Now the punctuality has improved. But, we are not satisfied with this improvement. We want much more improvement on the punctuality and this is the position.

DR. SUDHIR RAY: Sir, because the trains run late sometimes over five to six hours, everyday, long distance passengers, particularly the second class passengers face difficulties. I would like to know from the Minister what steps he is taking about the insanitary conditions in the toilets... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing this.

SHRI ANANDGAJAPATI RAJU POOSAPATI: I am a regular Railway traveller and one day, the train went late and it had arrived early in the next morning. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether they will give any compensation for taking the train late, because, the passengers are losing money with regard to time and other factors. What is the compensation? Atleast you can refund the ticket, in case, they take the train beyond a particular time.

MR. SPEAKER : This is a very revolutionary demand. If the Minister wants to reply, he can reply to it.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : At the moment, we do not have any such proposal for refunding it.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you Sir, whether it is a fact that for callous and negligence attitude on the part of Railway staff, most of the trains run late. I would like to know whether any responsibility has been fixed on late running of the trains on any of the officials and what action has been taken against them? During the last one or two or three or six months, has any attempt been made in this regard, if not, what is the reaction of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): I do appreciate the anxiety of the hon. Members since all of us travel by trains. But for the information of the House I would like to give comparative figures of June and July 1991 of long distance trains in the matter of punctuality.

	<i>June 1991</i>	<i>July 1991</i>
2621 Tamil Nadu Express	56 per cent	80 per cent
2622 Tamil Nadu Express	23 per cent	77 per cent
2723 A.P. Express	36 per cent	67 per cent
2724 A.P. Express	40 per cent	71 per cent
2625 Kerala Mangla Exp.	10 per cent	74 per cent
2626 Kerala Mangla Expr.	36 per cent	93 per cent
2627 Karnataka Express	46 per cent	100 per cent
2628 Karnataka Express	53 per cent	87 per cent
2391 Maghadh Express	zero per cent	45 per cent
2392 Magadh Express	10 per cent	80 per cent

I can go on reading out the figures like this. From this, I hope, the Members will appreciate that there is a marked improvement in the punctuality of the trains. In all the railways we have nominated senior officers not only to monitor the trains but also to look after the railway stations. For any failure in this regard, the specified designated officers will be responsible hereafter.

[*Translation*]

Modernisation of Railway Units in Ajmer City

*312. **PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of various railway units in Ajmer city and the arrangements made for their maintenance and safety;