

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, January 10, 1991/Pausa 20,  
1912 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRISATYNARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain):  
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a question of  
parliamentary privileges. It pertains to se-  
curity.

MR. SPEAKER: I know, please take  
your seat. I will permit you after 12.00 hours.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Passenger Amenities at New Delhi  
Station

\*61. SHRI RAM SAGAR (Saidpur): Will  
the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to  
state:

(a) whether attention of the Government  
has been drawn to the news item captioned  
"A nightmare for rail passengers" appearing  
in the Hindustan Times dated 8 June, 1990  
listing difficulties being faced by commuters  
at New Delhi station; and

(b) the steps taken to remove the diffi-

culties of passengers?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI  
JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Adequate passenger amenities and  
services exist at New Delhi railway station.  
The newspaper report pertains to a period  
when the rush of passenger traffic was at its  
peak, and passenger services and amenities  
were under heavy strain and resources fully  
stretched. Various measures like frequent  
inspections, proper maintenance of services  
and amenities, making good the deficiencies  
noticed and checking the activities of anti-  
social elements etc., have been intensified.

SHRI RAM SAGAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir,  
I would like to know from the hon. Minister  
whether the difficulties experienced by the  
passengers at New Delhi Railway Station on  
8th June, 1990 and about which a report was  
published in the Hindustan Times, were  
caused by some anti-social elements; and if  
so, the details thereof?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Mr.  
Speaker, Sir, New Delhi Railway Station is  
considered to be one of the best railway  
stations in the country. Due to summer va-  
cations, as usual, the passenger rush was at  
its peak during the period to which this press  
report pertains. Keeping in view, all these  
things adequate steps have been taken to  
ensure that these difficulties do not recur.  
Now the situation is perfectly normal.

SHRI RAM SAGAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir,  
difficulties are being created for the passen-  
gers at various major railway stations viz.

Varanasi, Mughal Sarai, Bombay V.T., Dadar etc. in the country. Anti-social elements and coolies working at these stations forcibly occupy the reserved seats and they vacate the seats only after the passengers pay them some money for that. We, the Members of Parliament also experience this problem when seats are reserved for us. When we reserve seats in A.C. coaches and reach the station for boarding the trains, we find that the A.C. which has not been attached to the train. Due to this we, the Members of Parliament experience a lot of difficulties. If reservation is made in A.C. Second class sleeper coaches, seats are easily available. It is winter and all of a sudden we came to know that the A.C. coach has not been attached. Since we do not carry bedding, we experience lot of difficulties. The anti-social element's create problems. Seats are reserved for us and all of a sudden the bogie is changed. I would like to request that necessary steps may please be taken to set the things in order.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the complaint is about New Delhi Railway Station only, a report about which was published in the newspaper... (*Interruptions*) Every effort has been made to attend to all such complaints.

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know as to what amenities have been increased at New Delhi and old Delhi Railway Stations since the formulation of Janata Dal and Janata Dal (S) Governments at the Centre. This matter relates to Delhi and New Delhi where traffic problems are increasing day by day. I would also like to know as to when tube rail will be introduced in Delhi so that this facility could be provided to the passengers in the city.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, passengers from several nearby districts come to Delhi. 12 new trains have been introduced for their convenience. We are making every effort to see that passengers coming to the station do not experience any difficulty. Specially two teams of task force have been set up which enquire

into criminal cases, remove shortcomings in passenger amenities, provide protection and various other facilities to passengers.

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wanted to know the additional facilities provided by the railways to the passengers since the change in the Government and the Janata Dal (S) Government came to power. My second question was as to when the tube rail would be started in Delhi... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: I said that in the past few days 12 new trains have been introduced and two teams of task force have been raised. These teams would enquire into crimes committed at the railway stations so that the passengers do not face any inconvenience... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister said that these difficulties were caused due to increase in passenger rush in summer season. Summer comes every year. In his reply he has stated—

[*English*]

"... making good the deficiencies noticed and checking the activities of anti-social elements etc..."

[*Translation*]

This is what they say every time. Please let me know the deficiencies that came to their notice—and efforts made to remove them.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the summer attention of the police personnel deployed at the railway station was particularly diverted towards terrorist activities. Just a year back, a bomb explosion took place at the New Delhi railway station—during the 'ghallughara'. Due to that there was some laxity on the part of the railways in keeping proper check on criminals. In order to avoid any recurrence, efforts will be made to raise the strength of the force.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker,

Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that on 2nd January while booking reservation at the Lucknow Railway Station, an hon. Member of Parliament.....

MR. SPEAKER: You are talking about an hon. Member of Parliament and the question is something different.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member of Parliament wrote a letter to the hon. Minister. What action the hon. Minister has taken on that letter?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Though this point has nothing to do with the main question, I would like to state that we have received this report and action is being taken against the officer concerned.

[*English*]

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Sir, the Railway Department is trying to give as many facilities as possible to the commuters. We have also seen that they have modernised some stations. I would like to know as to what the Railways are doing for providing amenities to the passengers who travel in the tribal areas. I want to know specifically about this.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: A separate notice is required for this.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Anil Basu please go through the question and then put your supplementary.

[*English*]

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, we are especially concerned about the amenities provided to the railway passengers at New Delhi Railway Station. You will agree with me that similar facilities should be extended to other railway stations also. I am precisely asking a question in regard to New Delhi station. Whenever we detrain at New Delhi station and approach the taxi stand or the auto stand, we face a lot of hardships. When the MPs are facing such

hardships, it can be guessed how the common passengers are facing hardships at New Delhi station when they want to catch a taxi or an auto. The prepaid taxi and auto service was introduced, which is going on. But unfortunately we noticed that their charges are so high and very costly. Whenever I go from my residence, Baba Khark Singh Marg, to New Delhi station, auto people will charge only Rs. 7/-. But whenever I take an auto from the prepaid auto stand, they charge about Rs. 20/- or Rs. 21/- to reach my residence, three times of the normal charge. In view of the hardships faced by the passengers also the Members of Parliament whenever we detrain at New Delhi station or go to New Delhi station, I would like to know whether the Minister will consider to do some monitoring by the Government official or the railway official or other agencies so that proper charge is taken from the passengers and from the Members of Parliament to reach their destination.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can appreciate the difficulties of the hon. Member which he has explained now. But after alighting from the train, provision of taxi or auto service is not the responsibility of the Railways. Even then we will take up this matter with the Delhi Administration and request them to take suitable measures so that the passengers do not experience any inconvenience. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

DR. THAMBI DURAI: Sir, when the airport authorities are helping the passengers by arranging prepaid taxi service why can the Railway Department not help the passengers?... (*Interruptions*) The Railway authorities can do something in this regard. Why is the Minister always shirking his responsibility?... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Thambi Durai, the Minister said that he will look into it and make arrangements.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANIL BASU: This is one of the important amenities. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: His answer is right. But when will he do this?... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANIL BASU: I think the whole House is agreed that the Railway Minister should take a positive step to see that the passengers are not harassed at New Delhi station. It is the duty of the Railway Minister... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has said that he will look into it.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is the demand which concerns not only the Members but also the public. The Minister will take note of it.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANIL BASU: The Railway Minister cannot be silent on this... (*Interruptions*)

{*Translation*}

SHRI RAM KRISHAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister believes in socialist ideology. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would make arrangement to provide sitting accommodation in trains to women and disabled persons without reservation so that they could get at least a seat to sit while travelling in trains? Will the hon. Minister give an assurance to this effect?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is our endeavour to provide facility to all. But now we see that it has become question of the survival of the fittest, meaning thereby that a weak person can seldom get a seat in trains without reservation. It is difficult to remedy this situation.

SHRI ANAND SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to put forward a few suggestions before the hon. Minister. I have been observing for the last 10-15 years that Delhi bound trains from Lucknow halt for a minute or so at Tilak Bridge for one or the other reason whether it is due to chain pulling or deliberately. My suggestion is that it would be better if a stoppage is provided to all Delhi bound trains at Tilak Bridge. It will be convenient to the passengers on the one hand and will help in reducing congestion at New Delhi railway station on the other. It will be convenient for we people also who live in South Delhi because taxi and auto rickshaw will be easily available from there. Moreover for South-Delhi passengers, the distance from Tilak Bridge and New Delhi station is the same. Not only that if train gets late due to unscheduled halt at Tilak Bridge it causes corresponding delay to other trains. Therefore, if a stoppage is provided to all trains at Tilak Bridge, it will be more convenient for the passengers to alight there. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANEHSWAR MISHRA: This is a very good suggestion.

PROF. MAHADEO SHIWANKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to point out that prepaid taxi and auto-rickshaw drivers at New Delhi railway station generally indulge in overcharging. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: That point has already been made.

PROF. MAHADEO SHIWANKAR: His reply is not satisfactory. What I want to say is that the prepaid taxi and auto-rickshaw service has not provided any convenience to passengers because they do not charge proper fare. Will the railway administration pay attention in this direction?

MR. SPEAKER: He has already said that this is not for the railways to regulate this work

PROF. MAHADEO SHIWANKAR: But it is obligatory on the part of railways to

provide all ancillary services concerning railways. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Sir, the hon. Member is impressing upon the need that the railways should take upon itself the responsibility of carrying the passengers upto their destination after they alight from the train. But this is not possible. I agree that there is need for regulating taxi and auto rickshaw stands at railway station. For this, we shall have to take up the matter with the Delhi Administration.

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have come to know that there is a proposal to direct the route of Delhi-Howrah Deluxe so as to bypass Buxar and Patna. I would like to remind the hon. Minister that during his visit to Patna, he had issued a statement that Delhi-Howrah Deluxe train would continue to run via Buxar and Patna. I would like to mention that in the event of this train being diverted to Gaya, there would be great resentment among the people in Buxar and Gaya. Therefore, I would demand that this train should continue to run via Patna. (*Interruptions*) I would also like to know what steps are being taken for the development of Buxar railway station?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: The question asked by the hon. Member is not linked with the main question.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, that question does not arise from the main question.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: The decision regarding Delhi-Howrah Deluxe has not been taken yet is under consideration.

[*English*]

#### **Ekalakhi-Balurghat Railway Line (E.R.)**

\*62. DR. GOLAM YAZDANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the construction of the new railway line from Ekalakhi to Balurghat on Eastern Railway;

(b) the total length of the railway line and the number of proposed stations; and

(c) the budgetary allotments made every year?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### **STATEMENT**

(a) 3%.

(b) Total length is 87.11 km and the number of proposed Stations is twelve.

(c) Expenditure on the project year-wise is as under:—

	( <i>Rs. in lakhs</i> )
1983-84	101.00
1984-85	185.50
1985-86	45.93
1986-87	11.05
1987-88 ( <i>Credit</i> )	(-) 43.10
1988-89	0.01
1989-90	0.01
1990-91	0.01

[*English*]

DR. GOLAM YAZDANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have put this question because, as you know, West Dinajpur district was devoid of railways after partition. So, it was thought that West Dinajpur should have a railway line and this Eklakha to Balurghat line was proposed eight years back. But what is the progress after eight years? Not even two kilometres have been constructed. According to the answer given by the hon. Minister,