

SHRI P. K. DEO : This is a bungling of the management. (Interruption). No precaution is taken.

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order. No question or remark can be made without my permission. Hon. Members should not defy the Chair.

SHRI D. K. PANDA (Bhanjanagar) : Sir, I have written to you about this and asked for time for discussion (Interruption).

MR. SPEAKER : Order, please. No question of giving names. According to the rules, no question can be asked.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) : The statement should be circulated.

MR. SPEAKER : It will be circulated. It is laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI D. K. PANDA : I have made a request. (Interruption).

MR. SPEAKER : It is not permissible under the rules.

SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGLAM : Sir, may I be permitted to say this ? As many copies as hon. Members want will be made of this statement, and circulated. I have myself come forward to make this statement, as soon as I know the accident on return from abroad. The hon. Speaker knows this. Obviously, on such a serious matter, nobody wishes to hide anything.

SOME HON. MEMBERS *rose*— (Interruption).

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order.

12.49 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. PUNCTUALITY OF TRAINS

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : Sir, I am making a statement on the punctuality of trains.

Hon'ble Members will recall that on 1-6-71, I had stated in the House that steps would be taken to bring about an improvement in the punctuality of passenger trains.

I had to make an exception in the case of trains running in the Eastern Region for well-known reasons.

The campaign was launched with a circular D.O. letter No. 71-TTIV/24/4 dated 2nd June, 1971. Copies of this D.O. letter were sent to all the Members of Parliament.

The main point of the circular was to make it clear that promotional prospects of officers at all levels will be adjudged by their performance in running trains on time. Every train is being watched to fix responsibility on the concerned officials.

The performance of 19 important Express trains arriving Delhi is being specially watched. During the 10-day period immediately preceding the drive hardly 8 trains arrived on time and 11 trains were running abnormally late. The position now is that every day 15 out of the 19 trains arrive Delhi on time. The other 4 trains generally are No. 85 Assam Mail, No. 7 Toofan Express, No. 13 Upper India Express, and No. 11 Howrah-Delhi Express, all of which run through the Eastern Railway.

Out of the important long distance 102 trains on the system, 55 used to reach on time previously. The figure has now come up to 70. The balance 32 trains which run late are mostly those which run through the troubled Eastern region.

The percentage punctuality of Broad Gauge Mail and Express trains on the Central Railway was 61.5% during the 10-day period ending 10-6-71. It has now increased to 93.9%. On the Northern Railway, the percentage went up from 82.4 to 94.2%. The performance of the North-east Frontier Railway went up from 30% to 95%. The Southern Railway improved from 82.1% to 96.3%. The South Central showed an improvement from 77% to 95%. The Western Railway showed an improvement from 50.1% to 95.1%. The Eastern Railway improved from 24.8% to 47.5% and the South Eastern Railway from 61.9% to 69.5%. In respect of Metre Gauge, Northern Railway showed an improvement from 85% to 92.7%, Northeast Frontier Railway from 75% to 88.8%, Southern

Railway from 90% to 98.2%, South Central from 76% to 98% and the Western Railway from 82% to 87.2%. The North Eastern Railway improved from 60.8% to 71.7%.

In the case of slow passenger trains also, there has been an improvement, the most striking being on the Southern Railway where the percentage of Broad Gauge passenger trains not losing time improved from 81.6 to 97.2. The Western Railway improved from 83.5% to 93.1%, South Central from 71% to 88%, Central from 61.7% to 86% and Northern Railway from 83.1% to 90%.

Punctuality has greatly improved, but there is still a small percentage to make up. In the Eastern region unsocial activities upset the train timings and until these activities are checked, it will not be possible to make every train run on time. But, there is no such excuse in regard to other Zones. The Railway Administration, therefore, will pursue punctuality drive continuously and earnestly so as to bring satisfaction to the House.

The fillip given by Hon'ble Members by way of suggestions and supervision has been the basic forces behind this drive. I am grateful to the Hon'ble Members, I am confident that the Hon'ble Member will continue to give the needed courage and support to make this drive completely successful.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY (Rajnandgaon) : These figures have been given by the Railway Board. Can you believe them ?

MR. SPEAKER : Kindly sit down. This statement will be circulated to the members.

श्री रामाबतार शास्त्री (पटना) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस पर बहस होनी चाहिए।

अध्यक्ष महोदय . वह एक अलग बात है।

श्री रामाबतार शास्त्री : इस के लिए आप टाइम निश्चित कीजिए।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मिनिस्टर के स्टेटेमेंट के बाद क्वेश्चन्स नहीं हो सकते हैं। मुझे हर बार

बतलाना पड़ता है। जहाँ तक बहस का सवाल है, जब बिजनेस एडवाइजरी कमेटी की मीटिंग होगी, तब वहाँ जो कुछ कहना चाहते हैं कहियेगा।

12.55 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1971-72—
Contd.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE—Contd.

MR. SPEAKER : We have to take up the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Agriculture for which six hours have been allotted. The time so far taken is 5 hours 40 minutes. Still, there is an insistent demand that more time should be given.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY (Rajnandgaon) : Please increase it by one hour, if not two hours.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस तरह से काम नहीं चलेगा, हर डिमाण्ड पर टाइम बढ़ाते जायेंगे तो दूसरी डिमाण्ड्स रह जायेंगी। फिर भी इस पर कितना टाइम लेना चाहते हैं ?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : One and a half hours.

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM (Srinagar) : One hour and 20 minutes.

MR. SPEAKER : All right ; 1 hour and 20 minutes, including the time taken for the reply of the Minister. This is final.

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA (Eluru) : These 1 hour and 20 minutes should be for the Members alone. The Minister's time should be extra.

MR. SPEAKER ; You are a sovereign body. You can decide whatever you like. You can discuss only the Demands of this Ministry for the rest of the session. The Minister says that he will take 45 minutes,