

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, March 10, 1988/
Phalguna 20, 1909 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven
of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today is the birthday of the hon. Minister of Railways. Our congratulations to him.

MR. SPEAKER : If you desire, we can ask him to start a new train in your constituency on this auspicious occasion.

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK : Sweets should be distributed at home as well as in this House to celebrate the birthday.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : I am not keen on eating sweets but I would like to suggest that as we are discussing the Railway Budget in the House these days, he should make some good announcement befitting the occasion.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : I hope Mr. Krishna Iyer will be kind in his supplementary.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I have been observing for some time that you have started making more use of trains. The other day when you were slipping from here I saw you from behind. You are getting bulky. Therefore, I would suggest that in stead of make more

use of conveyance, you should walk fast more and more.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Sir, I am going on a Padyatra day after tomorrow.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : May his charm grow with his age !

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Narsing Suryawanshi.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Railway Facilities in Karnataka

*223. SHRI NARSING SURYAWANSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has recently received a memorandum urging the opening of a South-Western Railway Zonal Office at Bangalore and sufficient allocations for Chitradurga-Rayadurga line, electrification of the Jolarpettai-Bangalore city line, conversion of Bangalore-Mysore line into broad-gauge and other railway projects in the State of Karnataka ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government on each of the requests made therein ?

[Translation]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is given below.

Statement

In view of severe financial constraints, the Railways are not considering creation of any additional Zone for the present.

The allocation of funds to different projects is made from year to year, keeping in view the priority of the project and the overall availability of plan resources. Allocation of funds to the projects referred to in part (a) of the Question is as under :

Project	Funds Allotted (Rs. in crores)	
	1987-88	1988-89
(i) Bangalore-Mysore Conversion.	3.00	6.84
(ii) Chitradurg-Rayadurg New Line.	0.72	1.00
(iii) Jolarpettai-Bangalore Electrification.	0.50	4.37

[English]

SHRI NARSING SURYAWANSHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I express my thanks to the hon. Minister for having made more allocation of funds for this year, as compared to last year.

Further I would like to know whether a survey has been conducted for new line between Gulbarga and Nanded via Aland, Kamlapur, Humnabad, Bidar, Aurad, Degloor and Nanded. Is there any proposal to run fast train between Secunderabad and Purli Vaijinath and also bogie from Bidar to Bangalore and Madras ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : Sir, the survey which the hon. Member mentioned has not been undertaken. As far as the fast train is concerned and the bogie is concerned, these are matters of details and I will certainly pass on the information to the hon. Member after getting this information.

DR. V. VENKATESH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, after independence, Karnataka has got only 102 kms. of railway line, *i.e.* after 40 years. The hon. Member has just now thanked the Railway Minister for he has made some little more allocation than the last year. I would like to mention here that the people of Karnataka are very much agitated and they forced me to lead their agitation. The first stage of agitation was

very peaceful. . . People are complaining that the amount is very meagre.

MR. SPEAKER : That is a very general term. You put the question. Is it a fact? Because you have allotted very little more funds after the last year's Budget. Actually it is a sort of agony for the people there.

MR. SPEAKER : I want you to come straight to the question.

DR. V. VENKATESH : This allocation has increased because of the simple injury I got. If you want to allocate more funds to the Karnataka Railways, do you want me to go in for some more injuries ? I have sustained only a single fracture in one rib. There are other ribs. People are forcing me to ask this straight question about the railway zone. We have already received a memorandum from various organisations asking whether you are going to set up a separate railway zone which is already recommended in the year 1982. Just now you said you have to consult others about bogies and other things and then only you can pass it on.

This is my straight question, whether you are going to have South Western Zone for Karnataka which is already recommended by the railway reforms or not. Otherwise must I subject myself to another breakage of my ribs ? I want to ask this question.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Let me tell you one thing that if you start allocating funds on the basis of broken ribs, then it would be too much.

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I am very sorry if the hon. Member sustained some injury but the railway does not own the responsibility for the injury.

As far as the new railway zone is concerned, it is not proposed to start work on construction of any new railway Zone. Certainly not in the foreseeable future.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : In the answer given by the hon. Minister, in view of the severe financial constraint, the railways are not considering creation of any

additional zone for Karnataka. I want to know from the hon. Minister, from the Sixth Five Year Plan period itself, it has been recommended and a report is also pending before the Railway Ministry with regard to Samraj Nagar in Karnataka to Satyamaganlam connecting my constituency. That is already there. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether this is going to be taken up at least now. From the Sixth Five Year Plan, for the last more than ten years, it is pending. I want to know whether you are taking up this project from Samraj Nagar to Satyamangalam or not.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : No, Sir.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : You are not at all considering. What is this ?

MR. SPEAKER : It is a definite 'No', nothing more than that.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : What is this ? Is it an answer then ?

MR. SPEAKER : 'No' is an answer.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Hon. member already knows the financial constraints. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : May I know whether it is a fact and it has come to the notice of Government that a lot of injustice is being done to the Kannadigas at the time of recruitment in the South Central Zone ? If so, how the Government is going to rectify that ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : This has not come to the notice of Government.

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : It is a missing national link. It is not a big railway project.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : It is a very important track. He says 'No'. Do you agree with that answer ?

MR. SPEAKER : That is the answer. That is all.

Amenities to Slum Dwellers on Railway Land in Bombay

*224. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an agreement has been reached between the Government of Maharashtra and the Railways that except in certain cases the State Government may go ahead in providing amenities to the slum dwellers in the slums located on Railway land in Bombay city ; and

(b) if so, the details regarding those exceptions and other conditions if any, laid down by the Railways ?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : The answer to part (a) of my question has been of course given as 'No'. But I would like to point out that the issue of providing civic amenities in slums located on lands belonging to the railways in Bombay had been pending for a considerable time. Several meetings were held at various levels. Is it not a fact that the Chief Minister of Maharashtra so also the Minister of Housing of Maharashtra held a high-level meeting in New Delhi on 21st April 1987 and discussed this issue with the Central Ministers and it was decided that except lands which are required immediately for certain projects of Railways, except the hutments and colonies situated within the distance of 30 ft. from the track, civic amenities might be given by the Maharashtra Government and Railways would have no objection for such giving of civic amenities to the Slum Dwellers? Is it not a fact ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : It is a fact that the discussions have been held between the Railway Ministry, at my level, with the Hon. Chief Minister of Maharashtra. But the dialogue is still on and no firm agreement has been arrived at yet.