

Ganga does not cut back into the Bhagirathi-Hooghly system, defeating the very objective of the Project.

As suggested by the hon. Member, whatever is possible to be done would be done.

[*Translation*]

Condition of Malwa Express Coaches

*110. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the condition of coaches of Indore-New Delhi-Malwa Express which is a Superfast train, is very poor ; and

(b) if so, the time by which the condition of these coaches would be improved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir. The condition of the coaches is reported to be satisfactory.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Sir, when I had asked this question, I was thinking that....

MR. SPEAKER : Which version should I rely on ?

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : I was thinking that the reply I was going to get would be that the condition of the coaches was reported to be satisfactory. I had the opportunity to travel by this train only once....

MR. SPEAKER : Was it a coincidence that you boarded such a coach ?

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Sir, I did board such a coach. I travel on Delhi-Howrah line quite often because my constituency falls in that area. The condition of the coaches on that line is also equally bad. If you happen to travel from Lucknow to Calcutta *via* Barabanki, the home town of the hon. Minister, you will find that the coaches are in a dilapidated condition and

the toilets are stinking. There are no lights. Such pitiable is the condition. Now when I have asked a question to elicit information, instead of saying that the Government are trying to bring about improvement and development, in reply he has referred to a word 'reported' I do not know from whom they called for this report. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister has personally seen the condition of the coaches or he has received a report from some officer that the condition of the coaches is satisfactory? Was anything wrong noticed or not ?

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : He travelled only once and has put this question. We travel by that train daily.

MR. SPEAKER : You are since accustomed to that.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I want to confine this question to Malwa Express, because the question is related to Malwa Express only. There are in all 17 coaches in the Malwa Express, out of which 10 coaches....

MR. SPEAKER : We also have a Malwa Region in Punjab.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : If you order, we shall extend it to that region.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Sir, if you could get it extended, the condition of the coaches would also improve.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Out of 17 coaches, 10 are one to five years old, three coaches are 6 to 10 years old and surely four coaches, one of which might have been boarded by the hon. Member, are 11 to 15 years old. It is our endeavour to replace these four coaches in the near future when new U.A.H. coaches are received.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : The condition of the coach, which is in your mind, was the same and this I am stating before the House ; the Minister of State for Railways is present here ; he has three women Ministers sitting by his side and on the fourth side is sitting our hon. Transport Minister. Three women Ministers and hon. Mohsinaji. Exactly the same situation I was

facing in that coach and all the passengers were narrating their woes. ..

MR. SPEAKER : This also must be taken note of that he was travelling in a ladies compartment.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Hon. Scindiaji is surrounded by five women. But there in the compartment only four women were there. After hearing their persistent criticism of coaches, I felt so much harassed that I decided to ask a question on this. Since the hon. Transport Minister is herself a women, I thought, perhaps it might draw her attention. Therefore, I would like to know whether in view of my personal experience and also in deference to the sentiments of the hon. Members, the hon. Minister would call for a separate report as to the number of trains the coaches of which are in bad condition and inform this House soon after getting them repaired ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Ever since the question Hour began, I have felt the Members are taking exception to my sitting on this bench. Therefore, if you permit me, I shall change my seat.

MR. SPEAKER : They might be feeling jealous.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : With your permission, I shall change my seat so that the hon. Members could concentrate their attention on the questions.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : It will hardly make any difference even if Shri Scindia changes his seat.

[English]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : We are only trying to protect the domestic happiness of Shri Madhavrao Scindia.

[Translation]

DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA : Since our hon. Minister of State for Railways belongs to Madhya Pradesh, he is accused of giving more attention to Madhya Pradesh. But I would like to tell you about the condition of Kalinga Express which passes through 8 States. This train runs

between Delhi and Orissa. The condition of this train is even worse than that of Malwa Express. At least women travel by Malwa Express but in our train even the women do not travel. Secondly, all the obsolete A.C. coaches are attached to Kalinga Express. Will the hon. Minister kindly pay adequate attention to Kalinga Express as it is also an important train ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : This question was originally asked about Malwa Express. One thing that I want to say is that I am glad to know that the hon. Members are well aware of the difficulties that are before us, because the way they are asking the supplementaries, the point has become quite clear. About 1200 to 1300 passenger coaches are produced every year in the country whereas the demand is for about 2500 coaches. In spite of the fact that there is acute shortage of coaches, we continue to receive demands for introducing new trains. We have two alternatives. One is that we should accept the demand of the hon. Members and try to provide rail services even though the condition of the coaches is not what it should be or else most of the branch services may be closed. These are the two alternatives and we are prepared to choose whichever the hon. Members suggest.

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with the grace of God, only one train was given to our area and that too after Shri Jakhar won the elections. Although the train is named 'Shekhawati Express', yet the people call it 'Jakhar Express'. The condition of the coaches of that train is so poor that even if you happen to travel in the 1st class, you will feel as if you are travelling on a camel's back. We have got this train after many difficulties and, as such, I would like to know whether the condition of the coaches of this train will ever improve ?

MR. SPEAKER : We shall ask him to accompany us once. We shall get reservation in train without telling him.

[English]

Investment by Private Sector in Railways

*111. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :