

the demands are coming only from Madhya Pradesh.

MR SPEAKER: You are transgressing

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: When demands are coming from Madhya Pradesh, we will certainly consider them and think as to where else can we move from Madhya Pradesh

SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI CHATURVEDI: Mr Speaker, Sir, my question is in connection with the Khajuraho. There is the Rajgarh Palace in Chandranagar near Khajuraho and in the Teekamgarh district there is Orchha

MR. SPEAKER: Next question.

[English]

Shri Vilas Muttemwar Absent.

#### **Identification of Second Class Unreserved Passengers in case of Accidents**

\*865 SHRI S THANGARAJU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any system by which the second class passengers travelling in unreserved compartments are identified, especially at the time of railway accidents:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to identify the accident victims of such a nature?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). Instructions exist that in case of death of any passenger within Railway premises, the body should be handed over to the local police authorities for taking necessary follow-up action, including identification and disposal.

SHRI S. THANGARAJU: My contention is different. In the hon. Minister's reply it is mentioned about the death of a person at the Railway premises. I am not mentioning about the death of a person in the Railway premises. It may happen in the junction itself, it may be due to some other reasons. But the death should be by accident. In his reply the hon. Minister has stated, "...the body should be handed over to the local police authorities for taking necessary follow-up action, including identification and disposal." It is all right, in the case of passengers travelling by the shortest route trains passing through a particular State but for long distance passengers travelling by express trains passing through different States it will be difficult for the local authorities where the accident occurs, to identify the victims. This difficulty will be experienced more in the case of passengers travelling in unreserved compartments. I am stressing this point in this context, because there has been a major rail accident on the Marudayar river at Ariyalur where it was found difficult to identify some victims. So, I want to know from the hon. Minister why a safeguarding measure not be taken by devising a system by which passengers travelling in unreserved compartments may be identified properly. For that I suggest that the names and addresses of the passengers travelling in the unreserved compartments may also be noted at the ticket issuing station itself just as it is done in the case of those travelling by the reserved compartments.

AN HON. MEMBER: He has read it like the G.T. Express

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, 75 per cent of our passengers travel in unreserved coaches. If we start recording the names of eight million people every day I think the trains will get a trifle delayed.

As far as the identification of the bodies is concerned, the process of identification is entirely the responsibility of the Police and in fact under the Railway Accidents Manual, the moment such a body is discovered we are not even supposed to remove

it from the spot, and we have to immediately inform the local Police so that they come and set the process in motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Any second supplementary? Another spontaneous one this time also?

SHRI S THANGARAJU: I have also to point out in this connection that the Railway Convention Committee in one of its reports has recommended the constitution of a tribunal to deal with the accident claims and to facilitate the task of identification of the victims and fixing proper compensation. I want to know whether the Railways are thinking in terms of some device so that compensation goes to the real victims.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: This question pertains to identification of bodies. However, in the matter of claims, as the hon. Member knows, an *ad hoc* claims commissioner is appointed and his work is of quasi-judicial nature. It is really he who determines the amount to be paid as compensation, and as to whom it has to be paid so that the Railways do not end up in endless litigation.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: The hon. Minister may be aware that there was an accident which took place recently at Ariyalur on the Marudayar river. An accident took place in 1956 on the same bridge and at that time Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, the then Minister of Railways because of the accident resigned — I am not asking this Minister to resign. But anyhow, I am asking a pertinent question. You have mentioned in the reply that the local police will take care of the bodies. In the case of an accident the local police may not be aware of the fact that he is a resident of that locality or from Madras or from elsewhere. It is a difficult job even for the police also. May I know

from the hon. Minister whether a special squad can be constituted for this purpose so that when there is an accident in the railways the squad can go on the spot and find out whether they are from the local villages or from that area or from outside in order to hand over the bodies to the concerned persons? Moreover, I want to know as to how much of compensation has been paid to the real victims in the accident and how many cases have been disposed of? Has anybody been arrested for this sabotage?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Most of the hon. Member's numerous supplementaries are not relevant to this question. However, I will not avoid answering them. As I said, 8 or 9 million passengers every day travel in the unreserved coaches. And it is as difficult for the Railways to keep track of the identity of the persons as to where he boarded or where he did not board. There is a certain law and we have to proceed according to the procedures laid down in that law. When a dead body is found whether it be an accident or even if there is a dead body in the train, excepting in the case where there is a fear of death having taken place because of certain infectious disease where the Railway doctor is summoned, in other cases we are not supposed to remove the body unless it is absolutely unavoidable. We are supposed to inform the police immediately. They will transport the body. If they require the assistance, we provide transport to them. But it is their job to identify. If the successors or family members do not turn up, photographs are taken. In some cases, finger prints are kept. But this is all police procedure. It is not railway's procedure.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: You have got a separate police force?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: That is Railway Protection Force. It has different

duties. And they operate within different parameters. As far as claims are concerned, I can give hon. Member details of how many claims have been processed and how many claims have been paid. At present, the institution of Ad hoc Claims Commissioner is considered adequate. However, we do find that despite several reminders to the State Governments, they are very tardy by and large in appointing ad-hoc Claims Commissioners. In fact, through the hon. Members of this House, I would like to make a request to the State Government to kindly respond immediately. We have to send two reminders or three reminders and many days are lost before the ad hoc Claims Commissioner is appointed in most of the cases.

SHRI P KOLANDAIVELU: We have responded immediately.

#### Computer Courses in schools

\*866 SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the light of the recommendation of a committee set up by the Union Government, it is proposed to draw up a scheme to facilitate introduction of Computer course in schools all over the country;

(b) whether Union Government also propose to furnish necessary equipment to the schools; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI-MATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Central Government had set up in February 1985 a Committee to consider the desirability and feasibility of introduction of an elective subject in computer science at +2 level. The Committee suggested that an elective

course in computer science may be designed and students permitted to opt for it. The recommendations of the Committee were circulated among all the State Governments. The Central Government is not contemplating any scheme to introduce computer courses in schools all over the country.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

[English]

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: In the last sentence it is said that the Central Government is not contemplating any scheme to introduce computer courses in schools all over the country. Are we to infer that the Central Government intends to start these courses in only schools selected by them?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P V NARASIMHA RAO): The question concerns with regular +2 courses in all the schools of India. And the answer is that we have no such scheme. We have a scheme called the Computer Literacy Project which has been properly phased and in a few years time the idea is to have all the higher secondary schools covered by the Computer Literacy Project. That is a totally different project and it has nothing to do with a regular +2 course at the +2 level.

On the Class Project I could give information because it is available. We are working on it. About 1,200 to 1,500 schools are going to be covered this year. So, that way the phasing of the Class Project can be given but since we have not decided on anything about a particular computer course to be introduced in the schools, the answer is in the negative. The CBSE, for instance, has introduced a course in some of the schools. We are evaluating it. It has been found to be fairly satisfactory. But to replicate it in all the thousands of schools, the financial outlay will be almost prohibitive at the moment. So, we will have to be very careful in introducing these things. But I could certainly assure the House that