

the health of the family planning was injured and now I have done something to regain it and it is now gaining speed. In view of this I have fixed these targets. When it gains more speed the targets will be revised.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Sir, it seems the hon. Minister has fixed the higher target of hundred thousand millions because he is contributing to that target by having eight children himself.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, during the recent Asian Conference on Population when we were in China we were pleased to see the performance of Chinese Government on the population front. I would like to know whether the Government will give continuous incentive as is being done in China instead of the *ad hoc* ones given here. There they give say Rs. 50/- per month, more ration, more accommodation and so on. I would like to know whether Government is thinking on the line of giving continuous incentives? If so, when and how are they going to implement it?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, the political system of China is entirely different from the political system of this country. In view of the democratic set-up of this country it has been often said by the Prime Minister herself that the family planning programme is to be liberated from the governmental action and made people's programme.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: What has incentive got to do with Communism and Democracy, Sir?

(Interruptions)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: The opposition seems to be indulging in taking this serious problem very lightly. And, I think, they are not in a mood to consider this problem

very seriously. I cannot say anything more now on this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Next question. Member absent. This is a day of absence! Next question.

Demand of a Superfast Train between New Bongaigaon and Calcutta

*68. **SHRI ANANDA PATHAK:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the people of North Bengal, Assam and Eastern Region have demanded a superfast train between New Bongaigaon and Calcutta since long;

(b) whether the Government are also aware that it was already decided by the Railway to introduce such a superfast train;

(c) if so, reasons for the delay in introducing the train; and

(d) when such a train will be introduced and details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF RAILWAYS AND EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Introduction of additional Express trains between New Bongaigaon and Calcutta has been examined and not found feasible on account of acute shortage of coaches, constraints of capacity on sections enroute and at terminals at New Bongaigaon as well as Scaldah/Howrah.

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: The answer of the hon. Minister is rather evasive. What I wanted to know was this: For want of a super-fast

train, thousands of passengers are facing great inconvenience. Calcutta is a very important city and it is one of the most important centres of commercial activity. Thousands and thousands of people from Assam, the Eastern Region, North Bengal, Sikkim, Bhutan, Nepal, and other places, have to undertake train journey from New Bongaigaon and New Jalpaiguri. But, the existing trains are quite insufficient to cope with the problem.

The Darjeeling Mail, originating from New Jalpaiguri also, cannot cater to the needs of the people. Moreover, the Darjeeling Mail, originating from New Jalpaiguri, never reaches Calcutta in scheduled time, causing insurmountable difficulties for the people.

Therefore, the Passengers' Associations, the different mass organisations and prominent citizens, have been demanding the introduction of superfast train on this line for a long time.

In view of this may I know whether hon. Minister is prepared to reconsider the matter and do the needful to alleviate the difficulties of thousands of daily passengers from this backward region, by introducing this superfast train?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: After the completion of the B.G. line from New Bongaigaon to Gauhati, there is every possibility of reconsidering it as desired by the hon. Member who wanted introduction of super-fast train from Calcutta to New Bongaigaon. As a consequence of that the terminal facilities and other things will be provided. That will be after the completion of new B.G. line from New Bongaigaon to Gauhati.

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: We find that the Railway have already introduced some 'Summer specials on the same line during the Tourist season. On the same line, why cannot the Government introduce some regular Express and Mail trains so that the problem of these backward areas could be solved to some extent? Sir, immediately after the Lok Sabha election in 1980 the Government introduced the Gour Express from Malda to Calcutta with a view to boost the image of our Energy Minister, Shri Ghani Khan Chaudhuri, May I know why the Government is not extending the same train to New Jalpaiguri, so that the problem of the daily passengers could be solve to some extent? Extension of this line to New Jalpaiguri can be done very easily. May I know what is the proposal which is there before you? Will the Government consider the two alternatives so that this problem can be solved to some extent?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: The extension of No. 53 and No. 54 Gour Express from Malda to New Jalpaiguri or New Bongaigaon has also been examined; but we found that it is not possible to extend it so far.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Sir, the hon. Member's question has not been replied to. You do not know where New Bongaigaon is.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : I have already informed this august House that there is constraint on this Section. That is the main factor. When the New Bongaigaon-Gauhati B. G. line is constructed, the terminal facilities will be provided. After that we will be in a position to consider whether it can be extended or a new train can be introduced.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Sir, the hon. Minister does not

know at all the geographical position of the New Bongaigaon. He is talking of New Bongaigaon-Gauhati Section. In this region only two trains are running from New Bongaigaon to Calcutta. In North Bengal region there are about one crore people for whom you are maintaining only two trains. He was saying about the terminal facilities in New Bongaigaon as well as Sealdah and Howrah. There are terminal facilities available in those places. There may be a question of extra terminal facilities. Sometime back there was a unanimous resolution in West Bengal Assembly. Even your party, Congress-I party, also supported that resolution that there should be a train from New Cooch Behar to Sealdah-Howrah. You are telling us about the acute shortage of coaches. But I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that recently about 43 trains were introduced in Delhi and Patna regions. The people of the locality are agitated. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how long this type of reactionary replies will be given to the House and whether it is upto 1985 or beyond that.

SHRI . MALLIKARJUN :
Action and reaction oppose each other equally. If you call me reactionary, then you yourself become reactionary. But we do not want to become reactionary. Now, the question is of introduction of new super-fast train from Calcutta to New Bongaigaon. If I just take the name of New Bongaigaon if the hon. Members feel in what way New Bongaigaon is concerned with this issue, I have nothing to say further on this point. What I have mentioned is that there is a constraint in Section-I and terminal facilities are essentially required for the maintenance of the rakes and apart from that we are also

facing shortage of coaches. That may be a secondary phenomenon to consider in the light of the resolution passed by the Assembly or whatever it is. But unless the facilities are provided, it is not possible to yield under the pressure of this nature to introduce a super-fast train from Calcutta to New Bongaigaon. Today North-East and North Bengal is served by 5 trains.

श्रीमती ऊषा वर्मा : फर्रुखाबाद से बड़ी लाइन शाहजहांपुर और मोहमदी होती हुए गोला आती है। यहां पर कोई रेलवे लाइन और गाड़ी नहीं है। वहां पर लाखों करोड़ों लोगों का आना-जाना रहता है। कोई भी गाड़ी न होने की वजह से लोग असहाय हैं। क्या मंत्री महोदय ने इस बारे में विचार किया है ?

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन : यह प्रश्न इससे सम्बन्धित नहीं है।

SHRI SUNIL MAITRA :
Sir, the supplementary question was this : why the train starting from Sealdah and reaching new Malda Station cannot be extended up to New Jalpaiguri Station? Now, the New Jalpaiguri Station and Bongaigaon Station are far off from each other. The terminal facilities and availability of rakes do not come in the way of extending the service from Malda Station to New Jalpaiguri Station. Will the Minister kindly assure the House that the train services will be extended from Malda Station to New Jalpaiguri Station?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : I would not like to repeat what I have already mentioned in spite

of the repetition of the same question. Apart from that, the North Eastern region has to be served with certain essential commodities and other things. The movement of goods traffic is, therefore, one of the important factors in that region. In any case, the passenger traffic has got its own prime importance. It is secondary whether the 53-54 Gour Express was introduced by one Minister or the other. The fact is that this cannot be extended because of the constraints that I have mentioned.

Non-Formal Education

*69. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing non formal education in the country; and

(b) whether Government are encouraging voluntary organisations to take up non-formal education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SMT. SHEILA KAUL): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. As a part of the programme for Universalisation of Elementary Education, States/Union Territories have been advised to start Non-formal Education Centres for the benefit of those children who have not been able to benefit from the Formal Education system. Financial assistance is given by the Central Government for this purpose to the educationally backward States. Voluntary organisations in these States are also eligible to get assistance for running Non-Formal Education centres. Financial Assistance to voluntary organisations in any State/Union Territory is also available for innovative and experimental projects in Non-formal Education.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU : Is the Government giving any assist-

ance to the voluntary organisations to superwise the hon formal education centres that they have started?

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: As I have mentioned, we are giving aid to the voluntary organisations but I am sorry to inform you that so far we have received only six applications in this respect; we are waiting to get more applications from the voluntary organisations which should come forward to help us.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: My question was: Is any assistance given to the voluntary organisations to supervise the non-formal education?

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: No, Sir. We do not give aid like this.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Are any audio-visual educational aids given to these centres to educate children?

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: Actually, in India there are nine States, namely, West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, which are educationally backward. We are looking after these States, where the total number of illiterates is 80% of the total number of illiterates in the country. We have got centres that are looking after the drop-outs, that are 63% at the end of the primary stage and 77% at the end of the middle stage. As I mentioned, we have opened centres for the non-formal education. The hon. Member wants to know whether we provide audio-visual aids to educate children. For that I will have to find out, whether we do give audio-visual aids also to these centres. I may, however, mention that these non-formal education centres are looked after by the different States. The Central Govt. also looks after some centres that have been set up and there are certain centres that the states look after.