

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, July 31, 1980/Sravana 9,
1902 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Amenities on Trivandrum-Kanyakumari Line

*777. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the inconveniences experienced by passengers in the Tamil-Nadu part of the Trivandrum Division in the newly formed Trivandrum-Kanyakumari Railway line due to non-provision of platforms, lack of approach

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roads, failure to fix up reservation quotas for important stations and failure in the fixation of important stations as halting stations for express trains; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to remove these difficulties to the passengers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) & (b). At all the stations in the Tamil Nadu portion of the new BG line from Trivandrum to Kanyakumari facilities such as platforms, approach roads etc. have been provided to meet the expected traffic.

Kanyakumari and Nagarcoil Jn. falling in Tamil Nadu State on Trivandrum Central-Kanyakumari section have been allotted the following quotas in second class in trains starting from Trivandrum Central station:—

Train Nos	Quotas of 2nd class sleeper berths allotted to Kanyakumari	Nagarcoil Jn.
82. Trivandrum-Bombay Janta Express	4	2
125. Trivandrum-New Delhi K.K. Express	4	2
20. Madras-Trivandrum Mail	6	4
25. Trivandrum-Bangalore Island Express	2	2
29. Trivandrum Mangalore Malabar Express	4	1
187. Trivandrum-Bangalore Link Express	4	2
47. Trivandrum-Cannanore Express	4	2

An analysis of the utilisation of the above mentioned quotas has revealed that these quotas are adequate to cater to the demands for reservation at these stations. The position is, however, reviewed from time to time and quotas are allotted/enhanced based on the traffic justification.

SHRI N. DENNIS: The operation of train service commenced in this newly-formed Trivandrum-Kanyakumari Railway line about one year back. The passengers there are faced with lot of difficulties. Platforms are not provided in many important stations. Approach roads to important stations like Kuzhithurai and Nagarcoil are also not formed in spite of repeated representations. Even in the allotment of reservation quotas and in the fixation of halting stations for the Express Trains, discrimination is shown to the Tamil Nadu portion of the Trivandrum Division. Such facilities are not given to important town stations like Kuzhithurai. Moreover there is delay in the execution of the Tirunelveli Kanyakumari railway work and its operations. Passengers are frustrated by this attitude of discrimination and inaction. An All Party agitation is going on there in this regard to bring to the notice of the Government the need for speedy removal of these difficulties. May I know from the Government whether Government will take speedy steps to solve these problems faced by the passengers?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: It is not fair to say that there are no adequate facilities like platforms and approach roads. Because, this particular division consists of 15 stations out of which 11 stations are in Tamil Nadu alone. In these 11 stations the platforms have been constructed, approach roads have also been constructed and there is no difficulty for reservation also. The hon. Member no doubt made a representation that there should be some more reservation for Kuzhithurai. This has been exa-

mined. At present the demand at Kuzhithurai station for all trains during the last 3 months is 6 in first class and 37 in second class. Whenever it is feasible, Government will take into consideration the desire for more reservation.

SHRI N. DENNIS: The entire allotment of reservation quota for Kanyakumari district is given in the State-ment. Kanyakumari is the southernmost part of this land. Thousands of national and international tourists and pilgrims are pouring in this part daily. There is no express train connecting Kanyakumari. May I know from the hon. Minister whether Government would take immediate, speedy steps for the operation of express train from Kanyakumari?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: About this desire of the hon. Member, if he writes to me, I will get it examined.

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL: The Tirunelveli-Nagercoil meter gauge line is converted into broad gauge and it has been lying idle for the last 3 months due to some dispute. Will the hon. Minister take note of this and see that this line is functioning properly and used for service of passengers as well as for movement of goods?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: I will take the suggestion into consideration.

India's Stand on Declaring Jerusalem as Capital of Israel

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*778. **SHRI MOHD. ASRAR AHMAD:**
SHRI CHHITTUBHAI GAMIT:

Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan, on behalf of member states of the Islamic Conference, on 24 June, 1980 called on the