

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Statement

Thursday, April 23, 1981/Vaisakha 3,
1903 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of
the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Halt Station near Durgachak

*908. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware
that the people of Durgachak, a fast
growing township adjacent to Haldia
(West Bengal) have been, for a long
time, demanding that a halt station
be opened near Durgachak level cross-
ing;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that
South Eastern Railway authorities
have turned down this demand;

(c) if so, on what ground;

(d) whether the Chief Minister of
West Bengal in his letter dated March
4, 1981, has urged upon him to recon-
sider the decision; and

(e) if so, what action if any, has
been taken on the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN
THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIA-
MENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLI-
KARJUN): (a) to (e). A statement
is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A passenger halt at
Silpa Prabesh is likely to be opened
shortly. This halt will be located at a
distance of less than 3 Kms. from
Durgachak level crossing between
Durgachak and Haldia. Location of
halt at Silpa Pradesh was decided after
a survey of different sites as it was
found to be most convenient to serve
all the areas between Durgachak and
Haldia Stations. In view of one pas-
senger halt being opened on this sec-
tion, there is no justification for open-
ing yet another halt station in such
close proximity.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) South Eastern Railway has
been asked to examine the proposal
of shifting the proposed 'Silpa Pra-
desh' halt to Durgachak level cross-
ing as suggested by the Chief Minis-
ter of West Bengal.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Mr.
Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am pleased to
know that the reply has been given
by our young friend Mr. Mallikarjun.
Is he aware of the fact that during
the last 33 years although the popu-
lation growth even according to the
Census figures is more than 75%, your
route kilometer that is, the growth of
the Indian Railways, has not exceeded
11.8 per cent and that is causing
serious hardship to the people? It is
because the Railways happen to be
the cheapest mode of transport and
the least prime moving energy con-
sumption vehicle. I am anxious to

know what weight they give to the proposals when a Chief Minister of a State examines the cases, satisfies himself and writes to the Minister of Railways. Why is it that the matter has been left to the subordinate officials to sit on judgement on the assessment made by the Chief Minister of a State? Why has this request not been readily acceded to and what is the policy that the Railway Ministry adopts in dealing with the cases where a State Government or a Chief Minister writes to them asking for new stations, new lines and new halts?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am equally anxious to answer the question of the Hon. Member. When any Chief Minister writes regarding halt stations or new lines, the general policy of the Railways is to give due importance to it. It is beyond doubt. So far as this particular halt station is concerned, the Chief Minister of West Bengal has written to the Railways that instead of Silpa Prabesh halt station, the halt station should be at the Durgachak level crossing. This matter, as has already been revealed in the Statement, is under examination. We will give due importance to it and at the earliest possible time we will try to examine it.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I am seeking clarification to my first question. That is, the Chief Minister of West Bengal had written on 4th of March, and today it is more or less one month twenty days past. As a matter of courtesy and also, since we say that we are in a federal structure, the Railway Ministry should have immediately taken a decision and, relying on his assessment, they should have acceded to his request and passed orders that the station should be created at Durgachak instantly. Why has it not been done?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Sir, we cannot immediately pass an order on any paper which comes to the Rail-

ways. There is a proper administrative system which we adhere to. But we give due importance to the recommendations of the Chief Minister.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: My second supplementary is that you have to go through a commercial survey and a technical survey. Commercial means to ascertain the viability. Technical survey is final location survey and may be updating of the cost from the first to the last. How is it that when the facts show that in Durgachak large number of Central Government/State Government Offices, commercial banks, large number of private sector units, and statutory bodies are functioning already and there are no less than five thousand residential persons and no less than four thousand employed persons, the commercial survey conducted justified a station at Silpa Prabesh and not at Durgachak? That shows that your commercial survey was done in a perfunctory manner. Or was it that the local bus people pooled some money and managed to purchase the persons who were responsible for conducting the commercial survey and that is how they got the station shifted from Durgachak to Silpa Prabesh?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Sir, it is a wrong allegation of purchasing or anything. It is all irrelevant. But what I would like to inform the House is that there was a proposal to have three halt stations between Durgachak and Haldia stations. This is about eight kilometres or so. So, after the survey it has been felt that Silpa Prabesh would be the most suitable place which is only three kilometres from the Durgachak also on both sides. Seeing the viability, it had been proposed by the Railways. And since the Chief Minister himself has taken an interest by writing a letter, we are examining it.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Would the hon. Minister give assurance that the Chief Minister's request will be acceded to?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: I don't know why there is so much of apprehension in his mind. It has already been accepted in principle to have a halt station. The question is of location. One location was pointed out by the Railway and another has been suggested by the Chief Minister. It is not merely the Commercial angle; it has also the technical angle which has to be looked into. He is the expert on these matters who throws so much light to the House and also to the Administration. All the aspects are being taken into consideration and we are coming to the decision shortly.

श्री ज्योतिर्भूष: उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे देश में आवागमन के बहुत कम साधन हैं। पहले से जितने स्टेशन्स बने हुए हैं उन के अनुपात में देश की आबादी 50 प्रतिशत बढ़ चुकी है। लोकल ट्रेन्स, पैसेंजर गाड़ियां जो हैं उनके स्टेशन्स 15—20 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर बने हुए हैं। दूसरे कोई आवागमन के साधन नहीं हैं। जंगलों में रहने वाले जो आदिवासी हैं वे 20—20 किलोमीटर चल कर रेल पकड़ते हैं। गाड़ियों में भीड़ का यह हाल है कि आपने भी देखा होगा गाड़ियों की छतों पर चढ़कर लोग सफर करने लगे हैं। मैं आप से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इन स्टेशनों के बीच में काफी दूरी है और आदिवासी क्षेत्रों में जहाँ कि हाट स्टेशन 10—15 किलोमीटर के बीच में नहीं हैं। इस सम्बन्ध में क्या आप पुनः सर्वे कराकर हाट स्टेशन कायम करने का प्रयत्न करेंगे ?

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन: मान्यवर, इसका इस प्रश्न से कोई संबंध नहीं है आदिवासियों का जो प्रश्न है, आदिवासियों के लिए सहूलियत देना सरकार का पहला कर्तव्य

है। यदि माननीय सदस्य ऐसी स्पैसिफिक केस चाहते हैं, तो वे हमें लिखकर दें, हम उस की जांच करेंगे।

पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे महाविद्यालय, सोनपुर

* 910. श्री कमला मिश्र मधुकर :
क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मंत्रालय का विचार पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे महाविद्यालय, सोनपुर, (बिहार) को अपने अधिकार में लेने का है ;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो क्या रेलवे प्रशासन का विचार इस महाविद्यालय की भूमि, इमारत और अन्य उपकरणों को बिहार विश्वविद्यालय को सौंपने का है वगैरें कि बिहार विश्वविद्यालय इस महाविद्यालय को अपने अधिकार में ले ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उनका मंत्रालय इसे कब तक अपने अधिकार में लेगा ;

(घ) क्या पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे महाविद्यालय, सोनपुर के मंत्री ने इस सम्बन्ध में मंत्रालय को कोई ज्ञापन दिया है ; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो इस पर अब तक क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No Sir.

(b) The proposal would be examined as and when such a request is received by the Ministry.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e). A request received from the Secretary, Poorvottar Railway Mahavidyalaya, Sonapur regarding taking over of the College by the Ministry has been examined and not found feasible to agree to the request.