

कुमारी कम्बुबेन एम० जोशी : एक ज्वाइन्ट कान्फ्रेंस जो सेन्ट्रल कौंसिल आफ हेल्थ की हुई थी, उसमें इस बात पर चर्चा हुई थी और सभी स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स को हमने लिखा है कि जहां पर डाक्टर जाने के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं, वहां पर स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स को इन्वेन्टिव देना चाहिए और डाक्टरों को वहां आने के लिए आकर्षित करना चाहिए।

Increasing the Number of Short Distance Passenger Trains and Their Frequencies

*917. SHRI MOHAN LAL PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the number of short distance passenger trains and their frequencies on all link lines of main lines in all zones for the benefit of rural population; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this respect during the Sixth Plan and the provision being made for the Seventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY) : (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENTS

(a) The travel facilities by rail for the rural population in various sections are constantly reviewed with a view to ensure better rail services taking into consideration simultaneously the requirement of freight movement, etc. on these routes. Wherever the freight movement of essential commodities would not be affected, if additional passenger trains are needed, subject to availability of resources, it will be the endeavour of the Railways to put in some trains.

(b) Taking into consideration the above factors, the Railways have introduced 86 number of passenger trains in the last one year for the benefit of the rural passengers especially and all others, in addition to the suburban trains around the major cities.

Same consideration would continue to be given in the Seventh Plan also.

SHRI MOHAN LAL PATEL : Sir, in the Statement the hon. Minister has shown that

last year 86 passenger trains have been introduced in the rural areas. That is a good thing. But I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the reverse side. I would like to present some facts. In Bhavanagar in Gujarat there is a Railway Division. In the whole of the country the traffic is increasing day by day, but particularly in this Division it is decreasing. In this Parliament, to my question on 16.4.1981 the answer given by the hon. Minister was that in 1971 the traffic in this particular Division was 21.7 million passengers, whereas in 1981 it was reduced to 17.7 millions. That means, 40 lakhs passengers were reduced in 10 years, and this is the trend. And there are so many reasons why in this particular Division the traffic is reducing.

At present the average speed of the trains in this particular Division is 25 to 30 km. per hour. So, this is the main reason why the passenger traffic is reducing. Due to this, in the last six years, 22 trains have been cancelled on permanent basis. A month ago one super fast train between Porbander and Ahmedabad has been cancelled. We represented. The hon. Minister has considered that matter. That train is going to start from 10th of this month. Can hon. Minister give an assurance to pay much more attention to the branch lines which are serving the rural population specially the Bhavnagar Division?

Bhavnagar Division has been ignored. So, will the Minister take concrete steps by sending special team for permanent solution.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY : Please see the main question :

“(a) whether Government propose to increase the number of short distance passenger trains and their frequencies on all link lines of main lines in all zones for the benefit of rural population; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this respect during the Sixth Plan and the provision being made for the Seventh Plan?

The hon. Member is now asking me about a particular division. So many divisions are there. So many zones are there. How can I say about a particular zone if that is not given in the question? I can give him a general idea if he wants. He himself has admitted that so many trains have been put in service.

MR. SPEAKER : You are not a walking encyclopaedia. Mr. Patel can refer them to you and you can look into that.

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY : I can look into that. I can write to him back. This is not possible for me to answer about a particular division-how many trains are running and how many are not.

SHRI MOHAN LAL PATEL : I have placed before the House some facts and I request you to go into the matter and if you feel fit, please send one particular team. There is no permanent solution. Day by day passengers are reducing in this particular division. The time will come when no train will remain there. Only track will remain there. I request you to look into the matter.

In Bhavnagar division there is no inter-locking system. In this system every train has to reduce its speed while passing through the yard upto 15 kms. So many stations are there which have no inter-locking system. This is a matter which the hon. Minister should consider, because if the speed of the train is not increased.....

MR. SPEAKER : He will take down your suggestion.

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY : I will look into it.

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA : People all over the country are requesting the hon. Minister to introduce new trains or to add trains to gain frequency etc. On the basis of some policy, decisions have been taken to introduce several trains in different zones and to add to the frequency. For example, people of Kutch have made representations. From Bombay to Gandhidham train is already running. People want that this should be a super-fast train and it should be named as Kutch mail will the hon. Minister consider this demand of the Bombay and kutch people ?

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY : I have categorically told him and I have asked the chairman to look into it, whether we can do it as quickly as possible.

I have already assured him. I do not think I should repeat that assurance.

Staff In Public Sector Undertakings of Railways

*914 SHRI R.R. BHOLE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representation has been received during the last six months explaining that staff belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled Tribes are not adequately represented in the public sector undertakings under the control of his Ministry, such as RITES, IRCON and COFMOW; and

(b) if so, action taken on the representation and the policy of the Government to provide adequate representation to the staff belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes who fulfil the eligibility conditions ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY) : (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENTS

(a) Yes, Sir. But not for COFMOW which is not a public sector undertaking.

(b) The RITES & IRCON Undertakings have been set up under the control of Ministry of Railways only a few years ago. Most of the immediate requirements of the staff and officers of the two undertakings have been met by deputation from zonal Railways. There is no formal reservation for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes while sending staff on deputation because the reservations have already been followed while these staff were recruited on the zonal Railways. However, eligible Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes are also considered alongwith others for deputations to these undertakings. Whenever some vacancies are filled by these undertakings by direct recruitment, reservation rules for sc/st candidates are kept in view as per extant orders. The representations put up will be replied after full examination of all points raised.