

MR. SPEAKER : The main question relates only to the question of having a Central authority. The hon. Member is one of the very acute observers of procedure, and so, I did not expect it from him.

SHRI P. GANGADEB : It is an allied question.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Phool Chand Verma.

तीसरी श्रेणी के यात्रियों को अतिरिक्त सुविधाएं

\*127. श्री फूलचन्द वर्मा : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) चालू वर्ष में तीसरी श्रेणी के यात्रियों को कौन-कौन सी अतिरिक्त सुविधाएं प्रदान की गई हैं ; और

(ख) आजादी की 25वीं वर्षगांठ के वर्ष में तीसरी श्रेणी के यात्रियों को ओर क्या-क्या अतिरिक्त सुविधाएं प्रदान करने का प्रस्ताव है ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T. A. PAI) : (a) and (b). A statement of facilities programmed for the current year (1972-73) is placed on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 3283/72]

श्री फूलचन्द वर्मा : अध्यक्ष जी, हम आजादी की पच्चीसवीं वर्षगांठ मना रहे हैं, इस संदर्भ में हमने यह सोचा था कि नये मंत्री आये हैं, शायद उन्हें तृतीय श्रेणी में यात्रा करने वालों की दिक्कतों का अनुभव होगा। मंत्री जी ने जो स्टेटमेंट दिया है उसमें बताया है कि उत्तर रेलवे, दक्षिण रेलवे और पश्चिम रेलवे के लिए कोई भी शयन यान चलाने की व्यवस्था नहीं है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह व्यवस्था क्यों नहीं की गयी है ?

दूसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आप विचार कर रहे हैं कि जनता एक्सप्रेस गाड़ियां कुछ और बढ़ायी जायें 25वीं वर्षगांठ के उपलक्ष्य में ?

SHRI T. A. PAI : Every year, approximately Rs. 4 crores are being spent on providing amenities to all the passengers ; the majority of whom happen to be travelling in class III. There is no doubt that this is the Silver Jubilee

Year, but that is no reason why we should take special care, because we should continuously take care to see that these amenities are improved. We would certainly see that this amount which we are spending is wisely spent and the amenities be continuously augmented.

श्री फूलचन्द वर्मा : मैंने यह पूछा था कि उत्तर, दक्षिण और पश्चिम रेलवे में एक भी शयन यान नहीं चला रहे हैं, इसका क्या कारण है ?

SHRI T. A. PAI : I shall look into it.

श्री फूलचन्द वर्मा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, दो-तीन दिन पहले रिजर्वेशन की खिड़की पर जाओ तो पता लगता है कि कोई जगह नहीं है, तो इसके लिए आप क्या व्यवस्था कर रहे हैं ? दूसरी बात यह है कि जो बीच में स्टेशन पड़ते हैं वहां से अगर कोई आदमी रिजर्वेशन के लिए ऐप्लाई करता है तो उसको कोई रिजर्वेशन नहीं मिलता। अतः इस बारे में आप कोई पग उठा रहे हैं ताकि बीच के स्टेशनों से भी लोगों को रिजर्वेशन मिल सके ?

SHRI T. A. PAI : We are fully aware of the difficulties experienced by the travelling passengers in the matter of reservation. A committee of Parliament has been appointed and it is going into all the details. We shall certainly try to see that these difficulties are all got over.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI : In order to alleviate the sufferings of the third class passengers, particularly in the long-distance trains, may I know whether Government have any proposals to reduce the number of stoppages in the long-distance trains and to sell the tickets according to the capacity of the trains ?

SHRI T. A. PAI : There has been a continuous demand, pressurisation from time to time, for stoppage of certain trains at different stations, and to the extent possible, we try to satisfy the demands of the people, and to the extent we do that, the speed of the trains is also reduced.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Since in the three-tier sleeper coaches in the third class compartments, the highest tier is impossible for anybody to climb if he is over 40 years of age, may

I know whether the railways are going to introduce the system of two tiers more and more in the long-distance trains, as for example, between Delhi and Calcutta or between Delhi and Bombay etc.? Normally the two-tier coaches are only for sitting, but we want two-tier coaches for sleeping also.

**SHRI T. A. PAI:** The suggestion will be seriously considered.

**SHRI N. K. P. SALVE:** In view of the fact that the junior Minister of Railways is a connoisseur of music and a good bath-room singer, in his own interest, will he consider the possibility of providing tape music in the third class coaches, realising that music is very soothing to the harassed passengers?

This type of music is a facility which is certainly within the reach of Government to provide.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I do not think it can be heard in the noise.

**SHRI T. A. PAI:** Where it has already been introduced, there is a controversy and complaint from passengers that they do not like this type of music and that type of music. So first we would like to satisfy those who are already enjoying that music before we introduce fresh controversies.

**SHRI R. P. DAS:** Is it a fact that in some trains in the Scaldah Division, particularly Ranaghat-Lalgola and other sections, facilities like fan, light, latrine, fittings and water are not regularly provided with in spite of repeated complaints from the passengers? If so, what steps are being taken to provide these facilities regularly?

**SHRI T. A. PAI:** I am aware that members of both Houses often complain of lack of facilities, particularly regarding water. That shall be given top priority.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** Some of the fans do not work during the summer.

**SHRI PARIPOORNANAND PAINULI:** During last week, the Hon. Minister was good enough to say that first class passengers were getting facilities at the cost of third class passengers and that he would dispense with this class disparity. Will he state if he has any plans to

implement this scheme during the 25th anniversary of independence?

**SHRI T. A. PAI:** It is a problem of continuously catering to growing traffic among the common people who travel by train in this country. If the alternative is only to dispense with higher classes in order to provide these amenities, this suggestion is being considered.

#### **Procedure re : Sale of Tickets and Reservation of seats on Railways**

\*129. **SHRI NIHAR LASKAR:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have under consideration any proposal to modify the existing rules and procedure in respect of sale of tickets and reservation of seats with a view to minimising the inconvenience being caused to the public; and

(b) whether Government are also considering measures to remove the lacunae in the procedure which permits anti-social elements to indulge in black marketing in the tickets?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T. A. PAI):** (a) and (b). A Committee of Members of Parliament has been appointed to look into the problems arising out of the existing rules and procedures pertaining to the sale of tickets and reservation of train accommodation. A copy of the terms of reference is given in the Statement laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### *Statement*

The terms of reference of the Committee are as under:—

(i) To examine the rules and procedures in vogue on Railways in respect of sale of tickets and reservations of seats/berths and suggest proposals.

(a) to minimise inconvenience to passengers in the matter of obtaining tickets and reservations;

(b) to remove the lacunae in the procedures which permit commission of irregularities.

(ii) To identify the nature of malpractices and irregularities committed by outsiders including unrecognised Travel Agencies in securing unauthorised reservations and to suggest measures to stop the same.