

**SHRI A. P. SHARMA :** There should be a half-an-hour discussion on it.

**MR. SPEAKER :** If you give a notice, I will allow a discussion on it.

श्री हामोवर पडिब : ग्रह्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने बिहार के सम्बन्ध में रूरल इलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन का सवाल पूछा था, उसका उत्तर नहीं आया ।

**SHRI A. P. SHARMA :** What about the suggestion for discussion of the subject of rural electrification? I propose that there should be a discussion.

**MR. SPEAKER :** If any hon. Member gives notice we will see. You ask for capacity for production. This is a question entirely different. This is about slow progress of electrification to which he has replied. I have already called the next question.

**SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA :** On a point of order.

**MR. SPEAKER :** There is no point of order during question Hour.

**SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA :** What is it that bars me from raising point of order? Yesterday, before Questions were taken there were various points of orders raised.

**MR. SPEAKER :** I don't think you should insist on it.

**SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA :** I would like to know why not.

**MR. SPEAKER :** I am not allowing it.

**SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA :** Why not?

**MR. SPEAKER :** You know, the practice followed in this House is not to raise points of orders during Question Hour. Yesterday it was somewhat different—that was question about the language; it is not arising out of the question itself. (Interruptions) Order please. Next question.

**Frequent Cancellation of Local Passenger Trains in Sealdah Division (Eastern Railway)**

\*37. **SHRI R. P. DAS :** Will the **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRI)** be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the frequent cancellation of local passenger train services due to the scarcity of rakes in the Sealdah Division;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and the reasons for the scarcity of rakes in Sealdah Division;

(c) whether Government propose to take positive steps to supply sufficient rakes and run the passenger trains as scheduled in Sealdah Railway Station; and

(d) if so, time by which the passenger Trains would be put into service?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRI) (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) :** (a) There have been cancellations, but these were not caused by scarcity of rakes.

(b) The cancellations have taken place because of—

(i) Civil Disturbances, Bundhs and imposition of curfew rendering train running and attendance of staff difficult and risky;

(ii) Hold-up of trains by passengers resulting in rakes getting locked up away from starting stations;

(iii) Theft of Overhead wires resulting in rakes getting locked up away from starting stations; and

(iv) Theft of equipment of rolling stock resulting in temporary immobilisation of the suburban electric rakes.

(a) and (d). Do not arise, as cancellations are of a temporary or localised nature and not the result of shortage of rakes.

**SHRI R. P. DAS :** When it is provided in the time-table how can it be cancelled on flimsy grounds ? How can you cancel like that causing great inconvenience to the daily travelling passengers ?

**SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA :** I would only submit that the grounds that I have given are not flimsy and that they are causing the railways to run under such chaotic conditions that it is almost impossible to run the rakes on time. It is the violence that is taking place that is responsible for this.

**SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI :** I do not deny the fact that there has been cancellation of trains due to civil disturbances etc. It is a fact and I, agree with my hon. friend on this point. But sometimes, it happens that there is scarcity of rakes; when the passengers are put to inconvenience and they ask the railway authorities for more rakes. The authority say that there is scarcity of rakes. I think that this question has been put for this reason. The Sealdah division and the Sealdah station have the highest density of passengers in Asia. Is the hon. Minister aware that unless the number of trains is increased and special arrangements are made to avoid all these disturbances and alternative trains are run, these problems cannot be solved ? May I know what steps the hon. Minister proposes to take to give relief to the travelling public immediately ?

**SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA :** I have answered the question already. In fact, the Railway Administration are trying to improve the train services but the difficulties in the way have been enumerated already. I agree with the hon. Member that the train services should be regular.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : पूर्व रेलवे के अन्दर जितनी भी घटनाएं हो रही हैं, शायद ही किसी दूसरी रेलवे में होती होगी। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन घटनाओं को रोकने के लिए आपने कौन से विशेष कदम उठाये हैं, जिससे कि रेलवे सम्पत्ति को हानि न हो। कुछ यात्री ऐसे काम करते हैं, लेकिन सारे यात्रियों को उसका फल भुगतना पड़ता है। सब यात्रियों

को सहूलियतें मिलें, इस दृष्टि से आप कौन से ठोस कदम उठाने जा रहे हैं ?

**SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA :** We are taking various steps. The co-operation of the State Government authorities is needed, and we have been having talks with them. We have to increase the protection forces. If necessary, it is under contemplation that the Army may be requisitioned in order to put a stop to all these robberies, train lootings etc. Various steps are being devised from time to time. The hon. Member will see that within the next two or three months, we are going to take very serious steps.

**DR. RANEN SEN :** The hon Minister should not take shelter behind this plea that there are *bundhs* and strikes and disturbances etc. Is it not a fact that three years back, the Railway Minister had himself admitted that there was shortage of rakes in certain parts of India. Therefore, the question raised here raises a relevant point. As far as we know there is shortage of rakes. Therefore, would the hon. Minister make enquiries from the railway authorities and find out if there is shortage of rakes and if so, see that the shortage is made up ?

**SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA :** Yes; I agree with the hon. Member. But the information furnished to me from the Sealdah station is that the rakes are available, but the difficulty is one of movement. But I shall make enquiries again in the light of the hon. Member's observation, whether the rakes are available in sufficient number.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Next question No. 38.

**SHRI S. R. DAMANI :** May I submit that my question No. 59 on the same subject may also be taken up along with this ?

**MR. SPEAKER :** Yes. He may also ask his question now.

जीवनीक दृष्टि से पिछड़े क्षेत्रों में प्राचीन योजनायें

38. जी अटक विहारो बाकवेयी : क्या