

Quota for Members of Parliament in Rajdhani Express (Delhi-Calcutta)

*311. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Members of Parliament have requested Government to fix some quota in Rajdhani Express from Delhi to Calcutta for Members of Parliament ;

(b) if so, whether any decision has since been taken ; and

(c) if not, the reason for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T. A. PAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). It was decided some time ago that no such quota should be fixed. However, the matter is being re-examined.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : The hon. Minister knows that a lot of Members of Parliament travel from here to Calcutta. Once they exhaust air ticket, they have to travel by the Rajdhani Express because that is the quickest train. He says that the matter is under consideration. I would like to know when a final decision is likely to be taken, whether it is likely to be taken by the end of this session.

SHRI T. A. PAI : It may not be possible to take a decision before the end of this session. Generally, in the past, it was found that we were in a position to provide accommodation to Members of Parliament as and when they wanted it, but there has been a persistent demand that some seats should be reserved for Members of Parliament. As against that, there have been public complaints also that in all the trains, because of reservations made for particular classes like Members of Parliament, Defence forces and all that, considerable inconvenience is caused to the public. This is leading to some corrupt practices. Therefore, we have appointed a Committee, with which the Members of Opposition are also being associated, to go into the question of reservation. This matter also will be referred to the Committee.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : That Committee has been appointed. I welcome that. My question is only this. There is a rush in the Rajdhani Express only during summer. But M.Ps

will travel both in summer and in winter. I want to know whether there will be some seats reserved for them.

MR. SPEAKER : It may be possible after your present term.

श्री बी० पी० मोर्य : जहां तक छत्रदाचार का सवाल है, रिजर्वेशन तो शायद उसका एक सकड़ा कारण है या कितना है, लेकिन 99 मंकाड़ा तो और कारण है। जो सुविधायें पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बरों को दी गई हैं, उन में यह एक विशेष सुविधा है कि किसी भी रेलवे में उन को रिजर्वेशन मिलेगा। क्या मंत्री महोदय उस सुविधा को इस विशेष गाड़ी के लिए तोड़ने जा रहे हैं ?

SHRI T. A. PAI : I am not going to withdraw any privileges, but, there are the complaints, that because of special reservations, shortages are created. How to get over this problem is being looked into by the Committee. We shall certainly see that these facilities are not withdrawn. If there are any abuses with which Railway officials are concerned, we shall try to prevent them.

MR. SPEAKER : May I as the Speaker of this House ask you that we, that is, our Secretariat, should also have been consulted? We are responsible for their coming and going and attending the House. I have no knowledge about anything. I at least have not appreciated this.

SHRI T. A. PAI : Perhaps, you are aware that a Committee has now been appointed.

MR. SPEAKER : If you yourself say that because of their coming the public is inconvenienced, the public will push them out. I do not think it is so. This is not a proper place to say that. I am passing on to the next Question. (Interruptions).

SOME HON. MEMBERS rose--

MR. SPEAKER : Don't get excited. I will discuss it with the hon. Minister personally. I have not allowed any more questions on it. We have all respect for the members of the public. But so far as the facilities to Members are concerned, it is the duty for me and my Secretariat also to see that they are properly provided. They are provided in the Act. We have been following it. I would request the hon. Minister that in

such matters at least he should have the courtesy to consult me also on these points.

SHRI T. A. PAI : Certainly, there is no intention to withdraw any facility. Whatever the facilities, I am safeguarding them.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you, very much.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Just one supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER : No more supplementaries ; next Question.

बलिया और छपरा रेलवे लाइनों (पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे) को भूमि के कटाव से खतरा

* 312. श्री चन्द्रिका प्रसाद : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या गंगा और घाघरा नदियों द्वारा भूमि के कटाव के कारण पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे पर बलिया और छपरा रेलवे लाइनों को खतरा पैदा हो गया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इन लाइनों की सुरक्षा के लिये उनका मंत्रालय क्या उपाय कर रहा है?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T. A. PAI) : (a) There is no danger to the Railway line between Ballia and Chupra stations due to erosion by river Ganga or river Ghogra.

(b) Does not arise.

श्री चन्द्रिका प्रसाद : बलिया-छपरा छोटी लाइन गंगा और घाघरा के बीच में जाता है। उत्तर में घाघरा है और दक्षिण में गंगा। दोनों नदियां लाइन के नजदीक हैं। क्या यह सही है कि कुछ समय पहले घाघरा के कटाव के कारण बलिया-छपरा लाइन के कुछ भाग को कुछ पीछे हटाना पड़ा था और जब रेलवे ने ठांकर बनाई, तो कटाव रुका ?

SHRI T. A. PAI : In 1956, there was some trouble. But thereafter, I understand, adequate safeguards have been taken by the Irrigation Department of the U.P. Government and we do not apprehend any such threat now.

श्री चन्द्रिका प्रसाद : प्रदेश सरकार ने इस लाइन की रक्षा के लिए घाघरा के किनारे

तुरतीपार सिरीनगर बांध और गंगा के किनारे बलिया देरिया बांध बनाया। बलिया देरिया बांध को गंगा गायघाट के पास काट रही है, जो रेलवे लाइन से एक फ्लॉग की दूरी पर है। इस बार सूखा पड़ गया है। अगर बाढ़ से कटाव हो गया होता तो, यह लाइन साफ़ हो जाती। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जैसे घाघरा पर अस्थायी ठांकर बनाई थी, क्या उसी तरह गंगा पर भी बनाने का इन्तजाम किया जायेगा।

SHRI T. A. PAI : Since the hon. Member is giving some information which may be some consequence, whatever the reply I have given, I shall get the matter looked into.

Proposals submitted by Kerala Government re: Cashew Industry

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*313. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI :
SHRIMATI BHARGAVI
THANKAPPAN :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state the present stage of the proposals submitted by Government of Kerala regarding (i) the taking over of 25 more closed Cashew Factories by the Cashew Development Corporation and fixation of quota of 17,646 tonnes of raw nuts (ii) grant of Rs. 150 lakhs and loan of a similar amount for the take-over of at least 15 closed Cashew Factories under the provisions of the Kerala Relief Undertakings (Special provisions) Act (iii) issue of passports for skilled labourers engaged in Cashew industry to enable them to go to foreign countries (iv) allotment of additional quantities of raw nuts to factories run by the Corporation and (v) refusal of raw nuts allotment to factories which do not implement minimum wages etc. to labourers ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The present position of the proposals is detailed below :—

(1) Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation have taken over