

श्री ककुना शहाब खानसी : श्रीकृ...

than facing the confrontation of Mr. Lakkappa! We will face that.

(Interruptions)

**MR. SPEAKER:** Will you kindly help me? You have already put your question. You cannot make a speech here. I am not allowing.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:** We have faced confrontation all through life and we are not afraid of it today also.

Dr. Sushila Nayar.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question no. 23.

**DR. SUSHILA NAYAR:** I would like to know from the hon. Minister. Lalitpur being in my constituency, I know it is a very backward area. I want to know whether the criterion for establishing a new railway line is only the remunerativeness of the line or has it got any relation with the needs of development and facilities required in the area. In view of this may I know how much will this project be expedited? Moreover, in the meantime, there are some parts of this area where there are some railway lines. I want to know whether the hon. Minister can arrange for the stoppage of some more trains there so that the people may get the necessary facilities.

Robberies in Running Trains

\*23. **SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:**  
**SHRI DURGA CHAND:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the serious situation arising out of the activities of robbers in the running trains throughout the country;

(b) if so, the number of train robberies during the last one year, month wise together with date and the number of persons arrested;

(c) estimated loss to the passengers in each case and how Government propose to compensate them; and

(d) whether any steps have been taken by Government to minimise the robbery cases in the Railway and if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):** (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Taking Indian Railways as a whole there has been no increase in the incidents of robberies and dacoities in running trains during this year as compared to 1977. However, there has been some increase in robberies and dacoities on the Central Railway in the State of Madhya Pradesh with the occurrence of two cases of robberies and 2 of dacoities in the month of May and June, 78. There has also

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:** The hon. Member has inadvertently made a statement in the beginning that this particular area 'being in my constituency' is a backward area. This is not the reason. Her further query is correct. As far as backward areas are concerned, I can assure the Members that the remunerative character only will not be the criteria. As far as backward areas are concerned, providing the infra-structure for development of the backward area also will be one of the considerations.

As regards the halts, the question would arise only when the train starts:

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question no. 23.

(Interruptions)

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:** What better pleasure can there be

been slight increase in the case of robberies on the Northern Railway during the current year.

(b) Detailed information regarding the number of train robberies during the last one year monthwise together

with date and the number of persons arrested is being verified from the respective State Governments. However, the number of dacoities and robberies during the first six months of 1978 and for the full year 1977 is indicated below:—

Railway	Dacoities		Robberies		Total	
	1978 (6 months)	1977 (full yr.)	1978 (6 months)	1977 (full yr.)	1978 (6 months)	1977 (full yr.)
Central . . . . .	3	3	14	29	17	32
Eastern . . . . .	18	23	9	38	27	61
Northern . . . . .	5	6	37	47	42	53
N.E. . . . .	1	19	10	48	11	67
N.F. . . . .	..	1	2	4	2	5
Southern . . . . .	1	..	5	13	6	13
South Cent. . . . .	1	1	..	7	1	8
South East . . . . .	2	5	5	11	7	16
Western . . . . .	1	4	..	19	1	23
<b>GRAND TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>268</b>

(c) Information regarding estimated loss to the passengers in each case is being collected from the State Governments concerned. However, the estimated loss to the passengers due to robberies for the period 1st January 1978 to 30th June 1978 is Rs. 2.65 lakhs approximately. The number of persons arrested during this period for robberies is 58.

There is no provision in the Railway Act to compensate passengers for the theft/robbery/dacoity of their belongings etc. in trains, unless a railway servant has booked the luggage and given a receipt to the passenger.

(d) The Minister of Railways has been in touch with the Chief Ministers of the affected States, viz., Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal and has urged them to take effective preventive measures to

ensure safety of passengers and their properties.

On 16th June 1978 a high level meeting between the officers of the Ministries of Railways and Home Affairs was held and it was decided (1) that State Governments of U.P., Bihar, M.P., West Bengal and Maharashtra will launch vigorous drive against such crime by increasing the strength of the armed escorts; (2) to ensure prompt communication to the armed police escort whenever the alarm chain is pulled at night; (3) to accommodate the armed police escorts in the centre of the train so that, apprehending danger, they can break into two groups and get down on either side of the train to apprehend the criminals; (4) to provide the police escorts with powerful torches/very

light pistols and flares; and (5) providing powerful lights with Guard and Brakesman to light up the area on both sides of the train.

Armed RPF escorts are being provided on selected trains running in vulnerable sections at night to protect railway property. This would also help to instil confidence amongst the travelling public and also deter criminals from operating on trains.

Zonal Railways have launched a drive to ensure strict adherence to the following preventive measures in the coaches:—

1. Vestibuled doors are kept locked between 22.00 hrs. and 06.00 hrs. by the TTEs/Coach Attendants.

2. TTEs and Coach Attendants remain vigilant during night time and prevent entry of intruders, hawkers and unauthorised persons into the coaches.

3. In case of non-vestibuled trains the vestibuled doors are permanently closed or dummied.

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:** That is not only an insult to the Parliament and insult to the nation where this hon. Minister is erring not only in giving wrong answers but has deliberately not given proper answers.

I have gone through the statement very carefully in reply to the questions.

In regard to (b) he has stated—detailed information regarding the number of train robberies during the last one year monthwise...

In regard to (a) he has said—there has also been slight increase in the case of robberies on the Northern and Eastern Railways during the current year.

He has omitted the reasons deliberately and has said that there are no increases in robberies. To-day in this country 6,000 passenger trains

and 5,000 goods train are running daily. We are spending Rs. 4 crores on doubtful, suspicious 20,000 Railway Protection Force People.

(Interruptions)

**MR. SPEAKER:** Please come to the question.

(Interruptions)

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:** Then he said, the information is being collected. The question was specific and he was given proper time and he is stating that the information is being collected from the various States. He has not come out with the correct picture.

Insufficient answer cannot be admitted and proper action should be taken.

**MR. SPEAKER:** What is your question?

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:** He has not been able to collect information. I have collected the information. Information for the last four months, I will give.

This is not the answer that we are expecting.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Lakkappa, you are putting yourself in difficulty. If you have already got the information, you should have given to him.

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:** In various parts of the country—in Southern Express, G. T. Express, Jayanti Express, people are not secure. They are not moving into the trains.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Please come to the question.

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:** They are not moving into the trains. This is my information. Is it not a fact?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Please come to the question.

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:** I do not want to enter into any argument with him.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Please come to the question. There are a large number of questions.

(Interruptions)

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:** This is a very important question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Every question is important.

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:** Please allow. In the interest of the country I am appealing to you.

In the last four months i.e. January to May, 1978—

(Interruptions)

Murders in train	—
Dacoities	— 45
Robberies	— 118

**MR. SPEAKER:** Please remember that this is a Question Hour. Kindly come to the question.

(Interruptions)

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:** In view of the inefficient Ministry run by an inefficient Government, there are large scale robberies, let alone railway accidents resulting in deaths and loss of life and property. Today the railway system has come to a grinding halt.

**MR. SPEAKER:** There will be occasions to make a speech. This is Question Hour.

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:** I would like to know what are the streamlines? Let the Government and the Railway Ministry.....

(Interruptions)

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Lakkappa, I am not able to see any Question put

by you. You have to come to the Question.

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:** Sir, is there anything unparliamentary? If there is anything unparliamentary, you can take action against me. I put a simple question. In view of the fact that this country has lost confidence in the running of the trains, not only due to robbery, but also due to inefficiency and lack of administration and lack of direction, what is it that the hon. Minister proposes to do, to streamline the administration of the Railways? This is my question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** You are making a speech. I am going to stop recording if you make a speech. You must put a question.

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:** Let him answer.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:** Sir, I wish to submit...

**MR. SPEAKER:** The longer the question, the briefer can be the answer!

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:** ..without being provoked by the questions, I wish to submit to the Speaker in particular that originally the question that was submitted by the hon. Member was slightly different. When five days back the Railway Ministry office got a printed Copy of the question, Part (b) was slightly different. Originally the reference was only to the recent robberies and the details thereof. Then the question was changed and five days back we received a slightly reconstructed Part (b) and there it was stated:—

‘(b) the number of train robberies during the last one year, monthwise, together with date and the number of persons arrested.’

**PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR:** Who changed the question? Is it the Lok Sabha Secretariat or the Ministry?

**PROF. MADHU GANDAVATE:** I am only stating the facts. Let me clear the facts.

**PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR:** I am asking the hon. Speaker. Who changed the form of the question? Under what rule?

**MR. SPEAKER:** I am on my legs. Large number of hon. Members have given notice of questions. The question was consolidated by the office. Part of the question was by Mr. Lakappa and others have also mentioned certain other things. This question was consolidated by the office and that is why the change has taken place.

श्री राज नारायण : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा प्वाइन्ट ऑफ ऑर्डर जरा सुनिये, मेरा प्वाइन्ट ऑफ ऑर्डर यह है कि क्या मंत्री महोदय . . . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** I am on my legs. If there is anything concerning Question Hour, you can come to my chamber and discuss the matter. No point of order will be allowed during Question Hour. I shall be glad to meet you and I shall always have the pleasure to meet you. No point of order is allowed.

श्री राज नारायण : प्वाइन्ट ऑफ ऑर्डर छोड़िये, मुझे यह कहना है कि क्या कंसनिंग मेम्बर को इजाजत लिये बिना मंत्री सेंक्रेटरीएट या मंत्रालय किसी के प्रश्न को बदल सकते हैं?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question Hour is a very valuable hour.

(Interruptions)

**SHRI K. GOPAL:** How can the question be tampered with?

**SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA:** It is highly objectionable that the question is tampered with. Nobody has any competency in this matter.

**SHRI K. GOPAL:** Without asking the concerned Member, how can they tamper with the question. That is my point. I agree with Shri Raj Narain.

**SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA:** If my question is in order, it is nobody's competence to change the question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Now this has been raised unfortunately. This should not have been raised in Question Hour. Direction 10 provides that:

"Where a large number of notices of questions are received from several members on the same or allied subject the Speaker may direct that all the notices be consolidated into a single notice if, in his opinion, it is desirable to have a single self-contained question covering all the important points raised by members:

(Interruptions)

**SHRI K. GOPAL:** We want to know whether your permission is sought.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Gopal, certain powers are delegated by the Speaker to the Office also. Otherwise it is virtually impossible. (Interruptions)

**SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA:** The Member must have been informed about it.

**PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR:** His question should have been suitably amended. Otherwise, how is he going to put his supplementaries? If it is a new amendment, that must have been communicated to the Member.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Have you raised the objection? (Interruptions).

**SHRI C. M. STEPHEN:** Sir, the Direction is:

"Where a large number of notices of question are received from several members on the same or allied subject, the Speaker may direct that all the notices be consolidated into a single notice if in his opinion, it is

desirable to have a single self-contained question covering all the important points raised by members:

"Provided that in the case of such consolidated question, the names of all the members concerned shall be bracketed and shown against the question in the order of priority of their notices."

The point is that only two names are given here. The words used here are 'a large number of notices of questions from several members'. Would two Members constitute a large number of members? The question is on the same or allied subject. Now, here the period of the robberies is vital. If the period covers one year, obviously, it will be difficult for him to collect. If the period refers to one month, it will be possible for him to collect. Therefore, it is not a question of consolidation. The question is about the period. If all the notices of questions are to be consolidated into one, it would be making it difficult for the Ministry to answer and making it difficult for the Members to get an answer and making the earlier questions infructuous. This is absolutely an unhappy procedure. Direction No. 10 speaks of several members and large numbers of questions.... (Interruptions).

**SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE:** Notice was given 21 days before. Why did it take so long to consolidate the question? Ballot was taken 21 days before.

**SHRI SAUGATA ROY:** Before 21 days two names were there. It was found later that several members had given notice on the same and allied question. It was consolidated later. In 21 days did not the Secretariat have the time to inform the Members concerned? In 21 days we expect that it will go to the ministry so that the Minister may come here at the proper time with his answer.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I shall go into the matter. I shall postpone the question.

**SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA:** May I draw your attention to two aspects of the matter? It may well be that in the process of integration a vital part of my question has been knocked out and then it would be upto me to come up to you and present to you that a vital aspect of my question has been knocked out. That opportunity has not been given to the Member concerned that this is the form which the question has taken after integration. So my first point is that in such cases intimation must be given to the Member concerned.

Secondly, Sir, after you have integrated the question, the question has got a different orientation and I may not be concerned at all with that question. I may not like to put that question. In every such case information should be given to the Member concerned otherwise Lok Sabha Secretariat has no competence in this matter.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I am holding over the question. I will look into it. We take up next question.

श्री राज नारायण : अब आपने रियलाइज कर लिये कि प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर उठना जरूरी है? यह हमें के लिए वाद रखिए ।

श्रीचरी बलवीर सिंह : यह जो सवाल दोबारा आया उस में एक बात और भी जोड़ दें कि तीस साल इन्होंने राज किया और बराबर मूटते रहे हैं....

अपना सहीकथ : आप बैठिए । क्वेश्चन नं० 24 ।

श्री कर्मास सरडे : इस में एक सवाल यह भी जोड़ दिया जाय.....

(Interruptions)