

said that our view should be a very broad-minded one. I can assure him that this Government has a very broad-minded view but as far as the Railway Ministry is concerned, due to very poor planning between 1977 and 1979, our broad view has, perforce, become narrow. Today we are putting in the Depreciation Reserves Fund Rs. 1,250 crores and unfortunately the backlog that we have inherited from 1977-79, when only Rs. 140 crores was put into DRF, leaves us in the position where we have to fix priority for our aims. There are certain areas, certain backlogs which Prof. Dandavate knows very well, which we have inherited. Now we must try and see that we clear those backlogs.

MR. SPEAKER : Next question. Shri Krishna Iyer.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : One minute, Sir. Every time there is reference to Janata Government. Once allow a No-Confidence Motion against the Janata Government with retrospective effect so that we will reply.

MR. SPEAKER : Professor Sahib must know that No-Confidence Motion will be passed.

AN HON. MEMBER : That is already passed.

Introduction of a Direct Superfast Train between Bangalore and Howrah

*63 **SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER :** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that at Madras, the Bangalore passengers are finding it difficult to get accommodation in trains to Calcutta; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to introduce a direct superfast train between Bangalore and Howrah and to other cities in eastern India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) There is a small waiting list and to meet this, the

railways are proposing to increase reservation quotas for through passengers from Bangalore to Howrah.

(b) No, Sir.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : I am really surprised that the hon. Minister says that the waiting list has been very small. I do not know on what basis he has arrived at that conclusion. I know the real facts in my constituency. Probably he depends upon the figures given by his office. But the fact is that many of the passengers who want to go to Calcutta, on being told that their position in the waiting list is so and so, go by the unreserved compartments. So, the figures given by the office are not correct. May I know the figures of the waiting list which he has collected. He has said that it is a very small waiting list. So, I would like to know the figures which is there in his file now.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, according to the figures available with us, approximately 20 persons are wait-listed daily for reserved accommodation in the through second-class sleeper coach between Bangalore and Howrah, and the number of wait-listed passengers from Bangalore against the second-class quota by 4 Madras-Howrah Mail is approximately 5 per day.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Because a number of persons have approached me, that is why I have put this question, and I should say that the information given by the hon. Minister is not correct. I would request the hon. Minister to have a physical check, both at the Bangalore station and the Madras station. The figures given by the hon. Minister are far from the truth. He knows what happens at the railway stations. Therefore, I should like to know from the hon. Minister whether, till such time a direct train is provided, he will at least increase the number of direct bogies from Bangalore to Calcutta.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Our capacity of coach is 72 and since the number of wait-listed passengers is approximately twenty—since the hon. Member wants us to verify this figure, we

will check up again—really there is no justification to bring in another coach.

But I am happy to inform the hon. Member that from the 1st of May, 1986, we intend to increase the quota for Bangalore passengers ex-Madras by two berths in upper class and four berths in second class by Madras-Howrah mail.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : The Railway Board is getting a very good revenue from the Southern Railway when compared with the Northern Railway and some others. This Southern Railway is giving a very good revenue for Railway Board. From Madras, whatever Express Trains may be there from Madras to Coimbatore, from Madras to Madurai, from Madras to Tirunelveli,—almost all these trains are full. There is already so much of congestion; there is already so much of over-crowding. So, in view of these reasons, may I know whether a new train will be introduced from Madras to Coimbatore, and Madras to Madurai in order to avoid the congestion?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I will have to be given a separate notice.

SHRI C.P. THAKUR : In the last session of Parliament we raised the issue that passengers coming from Madras to Patna have to face lot of difficulties and therefore to solve that, we requested that the Ganga-Cauvery Express which comes upto Banaras should be extended to Patna.

MR. SPEAKER : Not pertinent. Irrelevant. Next question.

[*Translation*]

Arrangement for safe Custody of Baggage of International Passengers at Delhi Airport

*66. **SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA:** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) what are the arrangement made at Delhi Airport for safe custody of the baggage of passengers, especially of persons who are serving in Indian Embassies abroad

and who come to Delhi during holiday and what are the charges for this service;

(b) whether it is a fact that even the official passport hold are harassed by customs official on their return to Delhi on bringing thing of personal use and complaints made in this regard go unheeded; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps being taken by Government in the matter?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) A facility at international airport has been available to all passengers including persons serving in embassies abroad to enable them to keep their luggage safely at the airport for a short period of time. This facility is managed by a licensed contractor who accepts the luggage for safe custody against a fee of Rs. 2/- for small baggage and Rs. 4/- for bigger luggage every 24 hours or a part thereof. This facility has, however, been temporarily suspended in view of security reasons.

(b) and (c) : There are no different set of rules for official passport holders in so far as the custom clearance is concerned. Passengers are cleared on the basis of their declaration regarding the value and contents of their baggage. Passengers not carrying articles in excess of the duty-free allowance are permitted to walk through the green channel. The passenger clearance is supervised by an Assistant Collector of Customs whom the passengers can approach in the event of any harassment.

SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA : Hon Speaker, Sir, as has been stated by the hon. Minister, earlier this facility was being managed by the licensed contractors but for the time being it has been stopped. I would like to ask whether Government propose to make some new arrangement in view of the inconvenience being caused to the passengers ?

[*English*]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Sir, be-