

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 17th July, 2009/26 Asadha, 1931 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Construction of new railway line in Orissa

*201. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has plan to construct a new railway line link from Jajpur Road to Manapur which could also link to Anugul-Sukind Jajpur Road railway line so that all trains running to Keonjhar gasla Badbil can touch Jajpur Keonjhar Road;

(b) whether Government has plan to have second railway flyover bridge at railway plot at Jajpur Keonjhar Road where three serious train accidents occurred; and

(c) whether the inquiry report of Jajpur Keonjhar road railway accident in February, 2009 has already been completed; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRIMATI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. A new line from Sukhinda Road (Manapur) to Jajpur Keonjhar Road by passing Jakhapura has been sanctioned in Supplementary Budget 2008-09.

(b) No, Sir. One road over bridge exists on Howrah end of Jajpur-Keonjhar Road station. There is no proposal to have second Railway flyover bridge at Jajpur-Keonjhar Road station.

(c) Statutory enquiry is being conducted by Commissioner of Railway Safety/South Eastern Circle. Preliminary report has been submitted and as per preliminary report, accident occurred due to jumping of wheels of leading trolley of locomotive. Final report of the Commission of Railway Safety has not been submitted.

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Sir, the accident occurred in Jajpur-Keonjhar Road in February, 2009 and as per the answer, only preliminary report has been given. However, on the same spot, at Jajpur-Keonjhar road in Jajpur district, Orissa, three train accidents occurred during the last twenty years. First time, a train ran over a bus; second time, a train hit another train and the third time, the accident involved Coromandel Express; whatever could have been the reasons. The railway safety is a very serious issue. I would like to know whether the hon. Railway Minister will get the final report of the accident and announce a time-frame for getting all the Railway accident reports in time so that proper action could be taken. Will the hon. Minister also consider ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, one question at a time. One question, please.

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Sir, I am putting the question. Will the hon. Minister consider setting up of a second flyover bridge at Jajpur road and also for constructing a new railway line from Jajpur-Keonjhar Road to Dhamara Port via Jajpur, Navigaya and Aradikhetra Akhandalamani; and giving more funds to the Railway projects.

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as per the information available with me, only this accident has taken place and also as per the information this is a fact that for the last three years, there was no other consequential train accident in this place. This is the only accident that took place. This enquiry has been now with the Railway Safety Commissioner. He has sent only an interim report and we will take steps to get the final report as early as possible. But it being an independent body under the administrative control of the Civil Aviation, the Railways has, as a matter of fact, no control over this Commission. However, we will try our best to get it as early as possible.

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Sir, Jajpur-Keonjhar Road is a very important railway station and it has been declared as the ideal railway station by the hon. Minister. I want to know whether the Minister will consider the stoppage of Rajdhani Express, Falaknuma Express and Coromandel Express at Jajpur-Keonjhar Road since in the nearby areas, industries are coming up in a big way.

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Yes, Sir, I do agree with the hon. Member. It is a very important place. But with regard to the stoppage of all these trains in this line is a matter which needs to be given due consideration. So after examination, wherever it is possible, we will take appropriate action.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : आदरणीय सभापति महोदय, जैसे कि हर मामले में उड़ीसा नेग्लेक्टेड है, इसी तरह से रेलवे के मामले में भी यह बहुत नेग्लेक्टेड है। दुर्भाग्य की बात यह है कि वहां के मुख्य मंत्री केवल पत्र लिखते हैं और आकर कोई लॉबी नहीं करते हैं।

श्री सभापति : आप सवाल पूछिए।

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : सर, हमारे राज्य की ओर से दोहरीकरण, विद्युतीकरण और नई रेल लाईन के सर्वे की मांग काफी समय से है, लेकिन सर, अहम बात यह है कि क्या माननीय रेल राज्य मंत्री जी को यह पता है कि ईस्ट-कोस्ट रेलवे (पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे) का भुवनेश्वर में मुख्यालय है, वहां पर पिछले सात-आठ महीने से महाप्रबंधक (GM) नहीं है। फिर वे हमें रेलवे लाइन क्या देंगे, सर्वे क्या करवाएंगे, दोहरीकरण क्या करवाएंगे और इलैक्ट्रिफिकेशन क्या करवाएंगे? यह बात अलग है लेकिन यह ईस्ट-कोस्ट रेलवे बहुत पुराना है और वहां पर महाप्रबंधन पिछले सात-आठ महीने से नहीं है। महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय रेल राज्य मंत्री से यह प्रश्न करना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इन्हें यह पता है, अगर पता है, तो कब तक नया GM देंगे?

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Mr. Chairman, Sir, with regard to the on-going projects in Orissa, I have a list of 18 projects, out of which 5 are for new lines, 2 are for gauge conversion and the balance are for doubling the lines. In the light of these projects, I may not be able to agree with the hon. Member that Orissa has been neglected. But all these projects have to be completed expeditiously for which whatever the Railways will be able to do, whatever amount the Railways will be able to sanction, it

has been doing. With regard to the General Manager, I will have to look into it and decide, and after I get the information, I shall convey it to the hon. Member.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, the Commissioner of Railway Safety, according to the Minister; is an independent body. As far as my knowledge goes, a Railway officer is being appointed as the Commissioner of Railway Safety. In other words, the institution of Commissioner of Safety may be independent but the officers appointed are from the Railway Department. My question is, do you have any informal or formal control over the Commission?

SHRI E. AHAMMED: To the best of my knowledge, Mr. Chairman, this is purely under the administrative control of the Civil Aviation Ministry. The officer might have retired from the Railways, but the Railways have absolutely no control over the Commissioner.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, part of my question has been asked by my friend, Dr. Malaisamy. Whenever a railway accident takes place, the Commissioner of Railway Safety conducts an inquiry. The hon. Minister said just now that it is under the control of the Civil Aviation Ministry. But the question is, is the Commissioner totally independent of the Railway Ministry and the Civil Aviation Ministry? I ask this because the enquiry has to be impartial. Accidents may be due to technical failure or human failure or problems in the track. So, in a way the railways are responsible for the accidents and an officer who has got something to do with the Railways cannot conduct an impartial inquiry. Therefore, my question is: will the Government examine the possibility of having an independent inquiry by a Commissioner, independent both of the Civil Aviation and Railway Ministries? Sir, if you would permit me, I shall just take one minute. In Kerala there was an accident where a train fell into the lake and more than 100 people died. The enquiry commissioner said it was due to a tornado, which never occurred! This is what happens in this country! That is why I say that I have apprehensions about the independence of the Commissioner of inquiry. What would the Minister do about this?

SHRI E. AHAMMED: I do not wish to dispute the hon. Member's impression about the Commission. But as it is, now it is not under the control of the Railways. The Railways have absolutely no control over it. The administrative control, including the appointments, lies with the Civil Aviation. It is a matter to be decided by the Government whether this has to be continued or not. Therefore, I am not in a position to make any comment on this matter.

जम्मू मेल में अतिरिक्त ई.एफ.टी. किराये की रसीद बरामद किया जाना

*202. श्री संजय राउत :

श्री भारतकुमार राऊत : ††

क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या रेल सतर्कता दल द्वारा जम्मू तवी जाने वाली जम्मू मेल में चल टिकट निरीक्षक से छः करोड़ रुपए की अतिरिक्त ई.एफ.टी. रसीद बरामद करने का मामला सरकार की जानकारी में आया है;

†† सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री भारतकुमार राउत द्वारा पूछा गया।