

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you are giving the answer, do not talk of 'irrelevance'. If you want to talk of irrelevance, don't give the answer.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Mr. Chairman, if that is the ruling, then there is no answer for the question that has been asked.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I also rule that this question does not arise.

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL: I am very sorry for the ignorance of the hon. Minister. He does not know how the department, over which he presides, runs. I am sorry for his ignorance.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: The Chair has ruled. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the position has become so surcharged that I think Question No. 323 might soothe the Members.

Catering Facilities on Golconda and Krishna Express Trains

*323. SHRI K.V.R.S. BALA SUBBA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the South Central Railway have decided to withdraw catering facilities on the Golconda express and Krishna express trains;

(b) whether Government are aware of the hardship, which passengers will be subjected to; and

(c) what are the reasons for not introducing A.C. Chair Car on Brindawan express of Southern Railway?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is already provided on Brindawan Express.

SHRI K.V.R.S. BALA SUBBA RAO: In part (c) of the question, I had asked "what are the reasons for not introducing A.C. Chair Car in Golconda Express like Brindawan Express on the Southern Railway?". It has not been properly put here.

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Normally, on long distance trains we introduce AC Chair Cars. But because of shortage of coaches and all that, we do not provide these in all the trains. With regard to this particular train, I will see that AC Chair Car is joined to it.

SHRI K.V.R.S. BALA SUBBA RAO: Thank you. Is there any extension proposal for Golconda Express?

(No reply).

SHRI K. C. PANT: Sir, a highly productive question. A very fruitful question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you please repeat your question?

SHRI K.V.R.S. BALA SUBBA RAO: My second question is, is there an extension proposal for Golconda Express towards....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, he wants extension from Golconda to somewhere which I could not hear.

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Well, I do not have any such proposal. I do not know; I will look into it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Reddy. First the Golconda people.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Sir, this question is in connection with the railway of Andhra Pradesh. In this connection, I would like to know from the Minister that there are trains from Secunderabad to New Delhi and vice versa. There are two fast trains—the AP Express and Karnataka Express which go via Secunderabad. The AP Express starts from here at 2.10. I think there is a regular train in the night—i.e. Dakshin Express in which there is no AC. If AC

is introduced in Dakshin Express, that will give more facilities to the passengers who can travel easily from New Delhi to Secunderabad. Is the Minister considering introducing AC in Dakshin Express?

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Sir, as I said, we have constraint of AC Chair Cars. But we are introducing a number of AC Chair Cars on long distance trains. In this connection, this also will be reviewed. We are constantly reviewing.

श्री जी० स्वामी नायक : माननीय मंत्री जी ने कृष्णा एक्सप्रेस और गोलकुंडा एक्सप्रेस में जिस तरह से है उसी तरह से रहेगा यह कहा । इसी तरह से मैं आंध्र प्रदेश एक्सप्रेस, कर्नाटक एक्सप्रेस, केरल एक्सप्रेस में जिस तरह से राजधानी एक्सप्रेस में कैटरिंग होता है उसका इंतजाम किया जाता है उसी तरह से क्या मंत्री जी दूसरी फास्ट ट्रेन्स में भी कैटरिंग का इंतजाम करेंगे ?

दूसरे जिस तरह से जी० टी० एक्सप्रेस में चेयरकार है और उस में ए सी फर्स्ट क्लास भी है उसी तरह से क्या ए पी एक्सप्रेस, कर्नाटक एक्सप्रेस, केरल एक्सप्रेस और तमिलनाडु एक्सप्रेस में ए सी चेयर कार और ए सी फर्स्ट क्लास का वे प्रोविजन करेंगे ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is just a question of catering provisions for all these trains.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Sir, I have explained to you our present policy with regard to the question of introducing pantry car and dining car and bullet and all that. Our existing

policy is that whenever we introduce a long distance train, pantry car will be introduced. That is No. 1. This question relates to the South-Central Railway. Now in the South Central Railway static units we have 9, the ones managed by the Contrac-

tors number 246, and departmental and contractor-run are 11, and the number of mobile units is 4. Now with regard to the question whether we are going to add a pantry car to a particular train, we will consider that. This is our policy. Gradually and slowly, we will introduce pantry cars in all long-distance trains.

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO: The Krishna-Golconda Express terminates at Guntur after travelling a distance of about 500 kms. May I know whether there is any demand from the public that the two trains may be extended up to Gudur; and if so, what is the Government's thinking about extending these trains?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: I am not aware of such a demand. I will look into it.

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE: Sir, . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are not connected . . .

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE: I am connected in a way. May I know whether he considers the Howrah-Ahmedabad Express and the Maharashtra Express from Nagpur to Kolhapur as long-distance trains or short-distance trains. Both these trains have no catering arrangements. May I know the criteria and the definition of a long-distance train?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: There is no such criterion, but this Department, catering was very much restricted. Now we have taken the view that we will extend it to long-distance trains

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE: Is the Howrah-Ahmedabad Express a long-distance train or not?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: There is no such criterion, but in all long-distance trains we are committed to introduce pantry cars for the benefit of the passengers because a lot of complaints are coming from the passengers about the catering services being bad

and all that, or that they do not get food, etc. etc. That is why we are determined to improve the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The first step is the pantry car.

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Sir, I will read from here, if you want. For the whole of India, the total number of catering services available is 3,253. Out of these, 81 are in trains; that means, they are mobile. At stations, the number of those departmentally run is 71, and in trains, 54. Now at 38 stations catering is run partly by the Railways and partly by the contractors. Now what we are trying to do is that instead of the static ones we are introducing pantry cars. We think that pantry cars will be able to give more benefits to the passengers than the static ones.

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE: What about the Howrah-Ahmedabad Express which is a long-distance train?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: I cannot say about a particular train. But this is our general policy.

श्री नत्थू सिंह : श्रीमन्, आपके माध्यम से मैं माननीय रेल मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि लम्बी गाड़ियों में बैठने की सुविधा, एयर कंडीशन चेयर की आप व्यवस्था कर रहे हैं, लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान की 80 फीसदी जो पब्लिक बैठती है, वह छतों पर बैठ कर जाते हैं। उनको सुविधायें देने के लिए माननीय मंत्री महोदय बतायें कि जो छतों पर बैठ कर सफर करते हैं उन के लिए क्या प्रबन्ध कर रहे हैं?

श्री सभापति : छतों पर बैठते क्यों हैं, सवाल यह है।

I do not think that can be answered by the Minister.

Measles vaccine in baby clinic of Dr. R. M. L. Hospital

*324. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the measles vaccine has not been provided at the baby clinic of the Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when Government propose to provide this vaccine to the needy children at this clinic?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MISS KUMUDBEN M. JOSHI): (a) to (c) Measles vaccine is being tried out in the country on trial basis in specified medical colleges with a view to ascertain the feasibility of introducing this vaccine in the normal immunisation services. It is only after the results of these pilot studies are evaluated that the question of introduction of this vaccine in the Expanded Programme of Immunisation and in hospitals would be taken up.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Sir, the Baby Clinic, the Child Welfare Clinic, in the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital on Friday and Tuesday every week gives various vaccines for immunisation. This Hospital covers a large area coming up to the North Avenue and beyond that, and many children from rural areas come for vaccination. Is the Government thinking of using this vaccine, the measles vaccine, also to be tried in the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital?

MISS KUMUDBEN M. JOSHI: Sir, I have already replied that on the trial basis we have selected some pilot projects. According to that in the country we have selected 36 institutions. In Delhi there are four institutions, the AIIMS, the Safdarjung Hospital, the Maulana Azad Medical College and the Kalavati Sarani