

RAJYA SABHA

*Friday the 12th December, 1980/ the 21st
Agrahayana, 1902 (Saha)*

The House, met at eleven of the clock, Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Length of Railway Lines constructed in Tamil Nadu

♦361. SHRI L. GANESANr

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: f Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of railway lines in Tamil Nadu at present; and

(b) the details of new railway lines laid in that State during the past five years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) 3814 Km. (as on 31-3-80).

(b) (i) Parashala to Nagercoil—Kanyakumari—57 Km.

(ii) Tirunelveli to Nagercoil—73.31 K.m. (under construction).

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Chairman, the hon. Minister has just given the figures. But I am very sorry to say that since independence the construction of railway lines in the south, particularly in Tamil Nadu, has been highly neglected. I am not here to speak anything about the north or the south. But the fact is that Tamil Nadu is highly neglected regarding the construction of railway lines. Sir, he was mentioning about the Parashala—Kanyakumari railway line. That was a long-felt demand and there was some dispute that it had not been settled. But I would like to know from him what kilometrage of railway lines would be

fThe question was actually asked the floor of the House by Shri V. Gopalsamy.

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constructed within the next five years.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Sir, at the moment, the section from Karur to Dindigul and from Dindigul to Tirunelveli which is about 324 km. which has been surveyed. Now, it is before the Planning Commission for clearance. The line from Karur to Dindigul will be a new line of 73 km. And from Dindigul to Madurai it will be a parallel B. G. line and from Madurai to Tirunelveli/Twticorin it will be straight conversion. At the moment, this has not been constructed; the survey report is before the Planning Commission to get clearance and soon after that clearance is revived, the work will be taken up.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir the Minister pointed out about the Karur-Dindigul new railway line. He also said that the survey is over. The survey was over even before ten years. This has been a demand for the past 20 years. We have been telling about this Karur-Dindigul line for the past 20 years. And even this year this has not been included for execution Even now, it is under consideration. It is a fact.

I also want to say that the Salem-Bangalore line was the only one constructed since independence. This Karur-Dindigul line connects Madurai with the other parts; Madurai is the cultural capital of Tamil Nadu. Even after so many years we are not able to construct a railway line connecting Madurai with other parts through a broad gauge line. So, regarding this Karur-Dindigul line, I would like to get a specific answer from the Minister whether this line will be taken up for execution.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Sir, as mentioned by the hon. Member about the demand, it may be there for 20 years; I will not deny it. But so far as the execution of the work is concerned, unless the clearance from the Planning Commission comes it will not be possible, and it would be

taken up the moment the clearance comes. We also are eager to execute the project.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY; I differ from the Minister, because the Railways have to give a list as to which are the lines to be taken up for execution. You have not given the list; you have not included the Karur-Dindigul line for execution this year. Then, how can you blame the Planning Commission?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN; Sir, the hon. Member has mistaken me. The Railways have very clearly given this line to the Planning Commission. And in fact, in the month of October, a note has also been sent by the Minister, and there was a meeting with the Planning Minister on the 15th of June regarding new line. Then, our State Minister, Mr. Swami-nathan, has written to the Railways and took keen interest to see that this will get cleared from them.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I would like to know from the hon. Cabinet Minister whether he will insist upon the Planning Commission to include this line for execution in the coming Plan.

SHRI KEDAR PANDE: I shall insist on the Planning Commission to include it in the Sixth Five Year Plan.

श्री गणपत हीरालाल भगत : सभापति जी, क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि यहां से जो शाम को साढ़े सात बजे जी० टी० एक्सप्रेस मद्रास के लिये जाती है, वह करीब-करीब यहां से लेकर मथुरा तक दो तीन घंटे बीच में कई जगह पर रुकती है और चेन-पुलिंग होती है, उसके बारे में आपने क्या प्रबंध किया है?

श्री सभापति : चेन-पुलिंग का तो सवाल उठता नहीं है ।

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन : यह सवाल तो ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not relevant.

*362. [The Questioner (*Shri Har-vendar Singh Hanspal*) was absent. For answer vide col. 39-40 infra].

Disparity in to and fro fares in Sarvodaya Express

*363. SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a fare of Rs. 56.45 is charged from second class 3-tier passengers in Sarvodaya Express for their journey from New Delhi to Ahmedabad whereas a fare of Rs. 56.55 is charged from Ahmedabad to New Delhi by the same train for the same class;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the difference in fares; and

(c) what remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN: Sir, it appears that the hon. Minister has denied that there is any disparity in the rate of fare charged from passengers travelling in the Sarvodaya Express from New Delhi to Ahmedabad and back, but I would refer a particular case to the hon. Minister in this connection. One gentleman who travelled in the Sarvodaya Express in a second class three-tier coach on the 8th November purchased one ticket bearing No. 17908 for travelling from Ahmedabad to New Delhi. He was charged a fare of Rs. 56.55. He asked for a ticket for travelling from Ahmedabad to New Delhi but he was told by the Reservation Clerk that he was given a ticket from Ahmedabad to Delhi.