

RAJYA SABHA

*Monday, the 13th June, 1977/(the 23rd
Jyaishta, 1899 (Saka)*

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

ABITUARY REFERENCE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri B. S. Savnekar, an ex-Member of this House.

Shri Savnekar born in 1902 at Sava-na in Maharashtra State, was educated at Indore. A great social worker, he took keen interest in the improvement of the lot of Harijans, kisans and labour. He was closely associated with the Indian National Congress and held various important offices in that organisation. He was a Member of the Legislative Council, Andhra Pradesh in 1957-58. He was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 1960 and again in 1966. He made valuable contributions to the debates of this House during his tenure of Membership.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri B. S. Savnekar.

I would request the Members, to rise in their places and observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute)

Secretary-General will convey to the members of the bereaved family our sense of profound sorrow and deep sympathy.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Cancellation of Trains in Jodhpur Division

*1. SHRI JAGAN NATH
BHARDWAJ: SHRI
KHURSHED ALAM
KHAN: SHRI JAGDISH
JOSHI: SHRIMATI AMARJIT
KAUR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of trains were cancelled in May 1977 in the Jodhpur Division; and

(b) if so, what were the reasons thereof and what action Government have taken to save the travelling public from the inconvenience resulting from such dislocation of traffic in future?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) 15 pairs of passenger carrying trains were cancelled on Jodhpur Division for periods varying from 1 day to 9 days during May, 1977.

(b) The cancellation of these trains was on account of mass absenteeism of loco running staff. With the help of the available staff steps were taken to maintain the running of **all** Mail/Express trains and at least one-passenger train on each section of the Division to cause least inconvenience to the travelling public.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: This does not appear to be a very healthy sign at the beginning of this Session. I would like to know whether it is not a fact that the trouble in the Jodhpur Division was due to discontentment among the staff and that they still feel hurt and aggrieved. What is going to be done by the railway authorities to remove their grievances so that such strikes are not repeated or such a stoppage of work is not repeated in the future?

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Khurshed Alam Khan.