

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Tiruchi Siva.

Insinuating remarks against senior citizens printed on the Railway tickets

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise a matter of concern. A very learned senior citizen who is well-versed in writing letters to the Editor and taking cognizance of social and civic issues contacted me and shared his anguish.

Sir, the issue is that the Railways are extending concessions in the fare to the passengers, 'the senior citizens'; 50 per cent to the women and 40 per cent to the men.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, the Railway Minister should listen.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: In that ticket, it is written on the backside of the ticket, "Are you aware that 43 per cent of your fare is borne by the common citizens of the country?" ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not Question Hour. He is raising an important issue. Let it go on record. I am also aware of it. Please. I can't force any Minister unless his duty is there.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, he told me that already we have been let down by our folks and we are dependent on someone. When we are happy that the Government has shown a gesture of giving concessions then why should they insult us like this? A person can withstand poverty and he can tolerate hunger but not indignity. Why should these insinuating remarks come on the ticket? Later, I verified that it is not only with the tickets of the senior citizens but it is on all the tickets. It is totally unwarranted. It is insinuating. I was told by the Minister that he is also aware of this. First, I thought that he was not aware, but he is also aware of that. So I think, in a country, before giving food and concessions to any person or any individual, his self-respect and prestige must be upheld. That must be ensured by a democratic country. So I urge upon the Government or the Railway Ministry to immediately withdraw these remarks. This should not be on that. Everyone who is travelling in a train is a common citizen and everybody is a tax-payer. To whom they are telling and what they are trying to tell, whether the Railway is running at a loss; I do not want to go into those issues. I just want to say, kindly don't make a mark of indignation on any citizen in this country.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI BHASKAR RAO NEKKANTI (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

श्री सुरेन्द्र सिंह नागर (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से साथ संबद्ध करता हूँ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Very good Mr. Siva. Shri Prashanta Nanda.

Need for comprehensive conservation of Konark Sun Temple in Odisha

SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA (Odisha): Sir, this is a matter pertaining to conservation of world heritage monument, that is, Sun Temple, Konark. The Sun Temple is a world heritage monument and was built in 13th century. It has the basic problem of conservation now regarding saline ingress, water logging, erosion and other vegetative intrusions into