

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Time is over.

श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन : महोदय, मैं स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करती हूँ।

†محترمہ کہکشاں پروین (بہار): مہودے، میں خود کو اس موضوع سے سمبڈ کرتی ہوں۔

SHRI JOSE K. MANI : Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri K.J. Alphons.

Need to enhance efficiency of Indian Railways

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, the CAG Report, recently, had stated that the Indian Railways recorded an operating ratio of 98.44 per cent in financial year 2017-18. Now, Sir, what is the meaning of operating ratio? It means that to earn Rs.100, you are spending Rs.98.44. In this way, this has been the worst performance in the last ten years. The Report also stated that the Railways would have ended up with a negative balance of Rs.5,676.29 crores, instead of a surplus of Rs.1,665.61 crores, had it not been for the advances received from NTPC and IRCON. In that case, the operating ratio would also have risen up to 102.66 per cent. That means, to earn Rs.100, the Railways would have to spend Rs.102.66.

Interestingly, the operating ratio of the Railways was 90.2 per cent in 2012-13 and 91.3 per cent in 2014-15. This amply shows the picture that the current Government has systematically managed to ruin yet another PSU.

Since 2016-17, the Railways' revenue surplus has been falling steadily. From 2016-17 to 2017-18, the net revenue surplus decreased by 66.10 per cent. The share of internal resources in total capital expenditure fell massively, from 26.14 per cent in 2014-15 to 3.01 per cent in 2017-18. The Railways is borrowing heavily from the Government for capital expenditure, which will further complicate its financial situation. There are multiple reforms that the Railways need to undertake now. The earnings from freight needs to be increased for which the freight booking system has to be automated. Issues that the CAG report has flagged off needs to be tackled urgently, like irregular multiple bookings on the same privilege pass and the creation of new funds without justifiable reasons.

The Government needs to get its priorities right. While the much-advertised bullet train project has hit roadblocks, the fastest train, Vande Bharat Express had broke down

†Transliteration in Urdu script.

in its first trial run. Policy-making is also skewed. Forty per cent seats on the proposed route goes vacant now. The Railways has reported losses amounting to several crores.

Hon. Prime Minister had said, "The Indian Railways will become the growth engine of the nation's Vikas Yatra". It is imperative, therefore, that the Government directs its focus on the lifeline of the common Indian before all is lost.

SHRI K.T.S. TULSI (Nominated): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report of the CAG of India

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

SHRI SOM PARKASH: Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, I lay on the Table, under clause (1) of article 151 of the Constitution, I a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March 2018 — Union Government (Defence Services) — Ordnance Factories (Report No. 15 of 2019). [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1156/17/19]

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Demand for installation of Platform Screen Doors in Delhi Metro to prevent suicide

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Rajasthan): Sir, the Delhi Metro has become a new hotspot for suicides. As many as 46 deaths were reported between 2015 and 2018, according to the information given by the Central Government in Parliament. A joint operation of the Centre and the Delhi Government, DMRC is by far the largest Metro network in India with eight colour-coded regular lines, running over 343 kilometres and serving 250 stations. Each day, DMRC caters to over 22 lakh passengers. This also causes a massive delay in metro services and leaves thousands of passengers stranded very frequently. Though, the Delhi Metro has installed barricades at a lot of metro stations, it has not been expanded yet. Data shows that most suicides were attempted on the