

heart rate disorder, especially those that can cause sudden cardiac arrest. Most new ICDs can act as both a pacemaker and a defibrillator. Many ICDs also record the heart's electrical patterns when there is an abnormal heartbeat. This can help the doctor plan future treatment.

Sir, my concern is, in all health-related central as well as State Government schemes, claim is extended only for single or double chamber pacemaker, but the cost of ICD and procedure for cardiac conditions is not covered by any health schemes. As many patients need ICD, especially rural and poor patients, patient has to bear the full amount for which the cost is very high and the patient is left with no other option but to live with the disease or die. If high-cost treatments, like these, are not included in the schemes, the rural and poor patients will suffer.

Therefore, I urge the Government to include ICD in health protection schemes, like, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, that is, the Ayushman Bharat, so that lakhs and lakhs of patients are benefitted with this. It will be a boon for patients suffering from this life-threatening heart disorder. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Zero Hour matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri Jaggesh: Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Shrimati Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik (Maharashtra), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar (Andhra Pradesh), Shri Sant Balbir Singh (Punjab), Shri Sanjeev Arora (Punjab), Shri Sandosh Kumar P. (Kerala), and Dr. John Brittas (Kerala).

Demand to provide facility of lawyer for the welfare of under trial prisoners

SHRI SAKET GOKHALE (West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today I stand here as an MP, speaking for undertrial prisoners in India in this august House.

Thanks to my leaders, Ms. Mamata Banerjee and Shri Abhishek Banerjee and also my party Trinamool Congress. I spent half of this year, that is, 2023 in the Sabarmati Central Jail in Gujarat as an undertrial prisoner. Today, I want to speak about something which is the dark underbelly of our democracy. I am going to start with a very small fact, Sir. What percentage of the prison population in India is under-trials? Is it 10 per cent, 20 per cent? No, Sir. About 77 per cent of our prisoners are under-trials, which means three out of four people in our jails are technically innocent until proven guilty. Now, let me inform this august House about what a day of an

under-trial prisoner in India looks like. They are woken up at 6 o'clock in the morning with guards coming and kicking them with their boots. After that, lunch is served at 9 o'clock in the morning. That is lunch time, 9 o'clock. Then, dinner is served at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. And, what is dinner? It is two *rotis*. The *rotis* are like cement. You have to soak them in water for 30 minutes to make them edible and a bowl of boiled potatoes with mirchi powder on it. This food is unfit for human consumption, but that is what they are given. After giving dinner at 3.00 p.m., they don't get any food till 9 o'clock the next morning. In a barrack meant for 40 people, 80 to 85 people are stuffed together. Sir, the standard solution for any prison guard is very simple. A prisoner comes with a concern, they tie him to a pole and beat him for 15 minutes so that he never opens his mouth again. Sir, the majority of under-trials in jail are there for petty offences. There was a guy in my barrack. He was in jail for two years because he stole a pouch of milk of Rs.30/- . But he does not have Rs.500/- for bail; so, he has been languishing in prison since the last two years. Sir, sexual assault is rampant. Patients with mental health are kept with the other prisoners. They get bullied and they also get sexually abused. Prison guards turn a blind eye to it. Legal aid is non-existent because ten legal-aid lawyers in one prison... ..(*Interruptions*)..

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (DR. SUBHAS SARKAR): Sir, the hon. Member is..... ..(*Interruptions*)..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, please. Hon. Minister, let him speak.

SHRI SAKET GOKHALE: Sir, ten legal-aid lawyers in one prison..*(Interruptions)*.. Sir, I seek your protection. ..(*Interruptions*)..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, let him speak.

SHRI SAKET GOKHALE: Sir, I seek your protection and some time....(*Interruptions*).. Sir, I seek your protection. ..(*Interruptions*)..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, please. Hon. Minister, let him speak. Please let him speak.

DR. SUBHAS SARKAR: Sir, the hon. Member is..... ..(*Interruptions*)..

SHRI SAKET GOKHALE: You have not been to jail. I have been to jail.
..(*Interruptions*)..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please let him speak.

SHRI SAKET GOKHALE: Sir, please stop the clock; he is taking my time.

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

SHRI SAKET GOKHALE: Sir, legal aid is non-existent. Ten legal aid lawyers in a jail, there are 3,000 under-trial prisoners. वे कहाँ से काम करेंगे? Sir, to get to a lawyer, it takes six months. All branches ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, nothing is going on record. Hon. Minister, please take your seat.

श्री साकेत गोखले: सर, हमें छः महीने दाल-चावल नहीं मिला।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gokhale, please address the Chair.

SHRI SAKET GOKHALE: The executive locks prisoners. Majority of them are Muslims, SCs, STs and OBCs. (*Time-bell rings.*) The Judiciary^{*}

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

SHRI SAKET GOKHALE: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, please. Thank you. No, I cannot give time. Please.

SHRI SAKET GOKHALE: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Zero Hour mention raised by the hon. Member, Shri Saket Gokhale: Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Shri Prakash Chik Baraik (West Bengal), Ms. Dola Sen (West Bengal), Shri Samirul Islam (West Bengal), Shri Ajit Kumar Bhuyan (Assam),

^{*} Not recorded.

Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha (Bihar), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque (West Bengal), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri Niranjan Bishi (Odisha), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Jawhar Sircar (West Bengal), Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta (National Capital Territory of Delhi), Shri Sanjeev Arora (Punjab), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Shrimati Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar (Andhra Pradesh), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha) and Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand).

Thank you. Now, Shri Akhilesh Prasad Singh - Concern regarding cancellation of waiting ticket purchased from window counter at railway station.

Cancellation of waiting ticket purchased from window counter at railway station

श्री अखिलेश प्रसाद सिंह (बिहार): महोदय, रेलवे देश में भारतीय सार्वजनिक परिवहन व्यवस्था की रीढ़ की हड्डी की तरह काम करती है। देश भर में प्रतिदिन लगभग 2 करोड़, 40 लाख नागरिक रेलवे की सेवाओं का उपयोग करते हैं, लेकिन मैं आज इस सदन के माध्यम से सरकार का ध्यान रेल यात्रियों की एक बहुत ही व्यापक समस्या की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ।

महोदय, ऑनलाइन आरक्षण की सुविधा होने के बावजूद आज भी देश में बड़े पैमाने पर, खासकर दूरदराज के इलाकों में अधिकतर यात्री रेलवे का विंडो टिकट लेते हैं। अभी भी जो मौजूदा नियम है, उसके अनुसार वेटिंग टिकट अगर कन्फर्म नहीं हुआ तो ट्रेन के रवाना होने के आधे घंटे बाद तक विंडो से लिए गए वेटिंग टिकट को कैंसल कराया जा सकता है, लेकिन इसमें यात्रियों को बहुत ही ज्यादा असुविधा का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। वैसी ट्रेनें, जो सुबह या देर रात को खुलती हैं, उनका चार्ट सामान्यतः देर रात तक ही प्रिपेयर होता है और उस समय तक टिकट काउंटर्स प्रायः बन्द हो चुके होते हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में, जिन यात्रियों का टिकट कन्फर्म नहीं हुआ, उनके पास टिकट कैंसल करने का कोई दूसरा उपाय बचता नहीं है, इसलिए मजबूरन उन्हें या तो वेटिंग टिकट पर ही यात्रा करनी पड़ती है अथवा उनका पैसा डूब जाता है। इसलिए मेरा आपके माध्यम से सरकार को यह सुझाव है कि विंडो से लिए गए जो भी टिकट्स हैं, उनके कैंसिलेशन के लिए ज़रूर एक वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था शुरू की जानी चाहिए। आजकल सरकार में डिजिटल और आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस की बहुत बात हो रही है। इसलिए एक हैल्पलाइन नम्बर जारी किया जाना चाहिए, ताकि यात्री अगर चाहें तो कॉल करके अपना टिकट कैंसिल करा सकें। रेलवे के आरक्षित टिकट की कैंसिलेशन फीस भी काफी बढ़ायी जा चुकी है, इससे गरीब यात्रियों को काफी दिक्कत का सामना करना पड़ता है।

इसके साथ ही, मैं यह भी सुझाव देना चाहता हूँ कि कम से कम स्लीपर और थर्ड एसी के टिकट के कैंसिलेशन चार्ज को कम किया जाना चाहिए। इसमें मेरा यह भी सुझाव है कि दूर-दराज के इलाकों में टिकट रिज़र्वेशन काउन्टर्स की काफी कमी है और जैसा कि हम लोग सुन रहे हैं कि