

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Member associated themselves with the Special Mention made by hon. Member, Shri Laxmikant Bajpayee: Shri Pradip Kumar Varma (Jharkhand).

Demand to increase frequency of trains and reduce crowd in Mumbai suburban local trains

DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI (Maharashtra): Sir, I rise to draw the attention of this august House to the pressing issue of overcrowding in the Mumbai suburban local train network and the urgent need to increase train frequency to prevent accidents. Mumbai's suburban railway, catering to over 7.5 million commuters daily, is the lifeline of the city. However, the current infrastructure is severely strained, leading to perilous conditions for passengers. According to recent data, over 2,000 deaths and nearly 3,000 injuries were reported on the suburban railway network in 2023 due to overcrowding-related accidents. The peak hours witness trains operating at over 300 per cent capacity, with passengers risking their lives by hanging onto doors and windows. Such overcrowding not only endangers lives but also severely impacts the quality of life and productivity of millions of Mumbaikars. There is an urgent need to increase the frequency of trains during peak hours. Currently, the Central and Western lines run trains at intervals of approximately 3-5 minutes. By increasing the frequency to 2-3 minutes, the load can be significantly reduced. Additionally, deploying more 15-coach trains, instead of the current 12-coach ones, can accommodate more passengers per trip. I urge the Ministry of Railways to prioritize this issue and allocate necessary funds and resources for infrastructure upgrades. This includes expediting the ongoing Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) phases and ensuring timely completion. Enhancing the suburban train network will not only save lives but also improve the overall efficiency and reliability of Mumbai's public transport system.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by hon. Member, Dr. Medha Vishram Kulkarni: Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala) and Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala).