

water. They are suffering so badly. I have prayed to the hon. Prime Minister and the Union Minister with all the representations. There is no politics here. I only appeal to the Union Government. Mekedatu dam is one of the problems which has been pending for long. The State Government is recommending it; there is no politics in it. All successive Governments are trying to construct Mekedatu. The advocate who pleaded for Tamil Nadu also said, 'You can construct a dam higher up.' But, unfortunately, till today, nothing has happened. With folded hands, I pray, through you, to the Union Government to see that the problem is solved as the people are suffering for want of drinking water. Unscrupulous people are supplying water by bringing it from various areas. They are selling it at the rate of Rs.3,000 per load. If there are 4 members or 5 members in a family, they have to spend Rs.20,000. How will they live? There are retired people and pensioners; all these people are suffering. With folded hands, I beg of you; the Union Government is trying to solve this problem. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not blaming anybody. I am only praying for the drinking water.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI GHANSHYAM TIWARI): Shri Sanjeev Arora ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Sir, I have a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN (Tamilnadu): Sir, he has done it several times...*(Interruptions)*...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री घनश्याम तिवाड़ी) : आप कृपया बैठ जाइए। ..*(व्यवधान)*... The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by Shri H.D. Devegowda:- Dr. John Brittas (Kerala) and Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha).

Now, Shri Sanjeev Arora - not present. Dr. Fauzia Khan.

Demand for optimizing Special Coaches for Targeted Groups in Indian Railways

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, the Indian Railways routinely introduces special coaches and trains, both on a permanent and temporary basis, to accommodate surging travel demands during peak periods such as festivals, pilgrimages, vacations, and examinations. In 2023, the Indian Railways operated 527

Holi Specials, 6,369 Summer Specials, and 4,480 Chhath/Diwali Specials. While these measures aim to benefit specific targeted groups such as students, pilgrims and tourists, significant gaps in the reservation process hinder their effectiveness.

The current ‘first come, first served’ reservation approach, compounded by complex booking procedures and limited awareness, frequently prevents intended beneficiaries from securing seats. For instance, students, who require affordable travel for examinations, face hurdles due to restricted concessions available only for select classes like Sleeper Class (SL) and Second Seating (2S). The cumbersome refund process further discourages their use. The absence of targeted reservation quotas and streamlined group booking mechanisms often render these special coaches inaccessible to the very groups they aim to support. Moreover, special trains, which are open to all passengers, face similar issues - lack of targeted communication, short booking windows, and unclear eligibility criteria pose an inconvenience to the intended groups the service is meant to benefit.

To address these challenges, the Indian Railways must adopt comprehensive reforms. Introducing reservation quotas for targeted groups, simplifying booking processes, and enhancing communication about schedules and eligibility criteria can make these services truly effective. I urge the Government to recognize this issue and take measures to ensure the optimal use of these added coaches/trains. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI GHANSHYAM TIWARI): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by Dr. Fauzia Khan: Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala) and Dr. John Brittas (Kerala).

Now, Shrimati Mamata Thakur to speak in Bangla.

Urgent need to address delay in name change of West Bengal

SHRIMATI MAMATA THAKUR (West Bengal): [&] In 2016, the State Government had sent a proposal to the Home Ministry to change West Bengal’s name to “Bengal” in English, “Bengal” in Bengali and “Bengal” Hindi, but it was rejected by the Ministry advising us to use the name Bangla in all three languages. Therefore, on July 26,

[&] English translation of the original speech delivered in Bangla.