

[10 May, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

श्री सुखदेव सिंह द्विडंसा: सर, यह तो पेट्रोलियम मिनिस्ट्री को देखना है कि कहाँ – कहाँ कितनी – कितनी देते हैं, लेकिन अपने लिए उन से चर्चा भी करते रहें हैं, मीटिंग भी करते हैं कि पूरी गैस मिलनी चाहिए, लेकिन वह मजबूरी जाहिर करते हैं कि पूरी गैस नहीं दे सकते।

Ticketless Travel in NR

*642. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than Rs. 1.5 lakh were collected as penalty through surprise raids by the Northern Railway, during the last week of January, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have been conducting surprise raids in the past and a large number of passengers have been found travelling without ticket;

(c) if so, what were the total ticketless travellers held during 2001, sector-wise; and

(d) what steps are being taken to check ticketless travelling during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Regarding Ticketless Travel in NR

(a) Yes, Sir. A special drive against ticketless travel and unbooked luggage was conducted from 21.1.2002 to 27.1.2002 at three stations of Delhi area *i.e.* Delhi, New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin and a sum of Rs. 3.97 lakhs was collected.

(b) and (c) Ticket checking on the Railways is a continuous process and surprise checks are also conducted from time to time.

The number of ticketless travellers apprehended during the year 2001. zone-wise is as under.—

Railway	No. of ticketless travellers apprehended (in lakhs)
Central	25.57
Eastern	16.78
Northern	39.94
North Eastern	10.99
Northeast Frontier	2.15
Southern	5.17
South Central	11.03
South Eastern	9.21
Western	19.93
TOTAL	140.77

(d) Regular and surprise checks are conducted frequently to check ticketless/irregular travel in association with Railway Magistrates and Police. In addition, the Zonal Railways also conduct various special types of checks on specific dates and periods at various places and sections prone to ticketless travel. Zonal Railways have been asked to intensify these checks.

श्री रुमान्डला रामचन्द्रैया: सभापति महोदय, रेलवे में हजारों, लाखों लोग बगैर टिकिट यात्रा कर रहे हैं। उदाहरण के लिए दिल्ली में जनवरी, 2002 में लास्ट वीक में जब आकस्मिक चैंकिंग की गयी तो 34 हजार लोग बगैर टिकिट पकड़े गए। उन में से 16 हजार लोगों को गिरफ्तार किया गया जिन से 2 लाख रुपये से कुछ कम राशि वसूल की गयी और 3 को जेल भेजा गया। तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि बगैर टिकिट यात्रा को रोकने के लिए वह क्या कदम उठाने जा रहे हैं? रेलवे स्टेशन के अंदर ही बगैर टिकिट दाखिले को रोकने के लिए आधुनिक टेक्नालाजी के माध्यम से आप क्या उपाय कर रहे हैं।

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, this problem of ticketless travel in the railways is a very big problem, and the Railways are really seized of the matter also. In fact, it is an on-going process to have a regular check, and we have various systems by which these

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checkings are being done. Apart from the Travelling Ticket Examiners being posted, we have also made special efforts to tackle this menace. For example, we have a fortress check, wherein the train, or, the station is encircled from all sides, by mobilising a large number of ticket checking staff. Then, we also organise ambush checks, where the train is stopped at a pre-planned place, during the run-of the train, where checks are conducted by the ticket checking staff, so as to have an element of surprise. Then, we have the replacement checks, within divisions, where the staff stationed at one place conducts check at other places, so as to eliminate local influences. Then there are inter-Railway and inter-Divisional checks. Then there are concentrated spot, checks at entry and exist gates and at other locations at stations, continuously, for a number of days at important stations. We are also organising mobile checks conducted by the ticket checking staff, in groups, in various trains. Magisterial checks are also organised wherein Magistrate with the help of the Railway Police conducts the checks.

Even during this year, we organised massive railway ticket checking. The first of it was mentioned by the hon. Member, which forms part of the substance of this question. From 21st and 27th, during the month of January, organised checks were conducted in three important stations at Delhi, New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddhin railway stations. About 3,384 persons were apprehended and an amount of Rs. 3.97 lakhs collected. During the month of February, a massive check was organised all over India. About 8,756 persons were apprehended. From 16th April to 30th April, a massive operation was organised, called *Jagru*, in which many important persons and people belonging to various political parties and Government officials were apprehended. These are all on-going efforts to see that ticketless travelling is effectively countered. Of course, this will require cooperation of the public. We are organising a public education programme. It is also being ensured that the people who come to the station at the last minute are provided tickets without any difficulty. Separate counters are being opened for the purpose. We are thinking of providing facilities of issuing tickets, or, platform tickets in important cities for those people who come to the station at the last moment and want these tickets. This is a comprehensive scheme, by which, this menace could be countered.

श्री रुमाण्डला रामचन्द्रैया: सभापति जी, मेरा सेकेण्ड सप्लीमेंटरी यह है माननीय मंत्री जी के उत्तर से यह स्पष्ट है कि कुछ प्रांतों में प्रति वर्ष इतने लाख लोग बिना टिकट यात्रा कर रहे हैं, तो मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या रेलवे के कर्मचारी भी इसमें मिले हुए हैं ? और ऐसा भविष्य में इसको रोकने के लिए आप जितनी बातें कागज पर बता रहे हैं, उतना प्रेक्टीकली उन प्रांतों में नहीं हो पा रहा है, तो इसको क्या कारण है?

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: It is not as if this phenomenon of ticketless travel is confined only to some areas. In fact, we have identified certain sections in all the Railways, "where this menace is constantly occurring. Special efforts are being made to see that those areas are properly taken care of.

Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that, in a few cases, some members of the Railway staff are also involved. We are taking action against them.

This process of checking and collecting the amount from the ticketless travellers has proved quite successful. In fact, during the year 2000-01, we could collect Rs. 179 crores. During this year, *i.e.* 2001-2002, in the month of February, we have been able to collect Rs. 181.44 crores from the ticketless travellers.

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा: सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि यह जो बिना टिकट यात्रा करने वाले यात्रियों की संख्या हर साल बढ़ती जाती है, इसकी बढ़ोतरी के क्या कारण हैं? मुझे ऐसा लगता है जैसे बाड़ ही खेत को खाती हो, रेलवे के कर्मचारी जो बिना टिकट यात्रा करने वाले यात्रियों को पकड़ने वाले हैं, वे ही मिल जुलकर यात्रा कराते हों ऐसा देखा गया है कि जीआरपी वाले दो-दो, पांच-पांच यात्रियों को अपने साथ बिठा कर ले जाते हैं। टिकट इंचार्ज जो टिकट चैकिंग करते हैं वे भी यात्रियों को अपने साथ बिठा ले जाते हैं, उनकी रसीद नहीं काटी जाती है। इस प्रकार की घटनाएँ देखने को मिलती हैं। कई बार रेलवे का विजिलेंस डिपार्टमेंट जो बिना टिकट यात्रा के बारे में गड़बड़ी होती है, उसकी जांच करता है, लेकिन विजिलेंस विभाग के कुछ लोग भी उनके साथ मिलकर इसमें उनके सहयोगी बन जाते हैं। मुझे एक बार घटना याद आ रही है। मैं 21 जनवरी को ट्रेन से यात्रा कर रहा था। उस ट्रेन में जो टिकट चैकिंग स्टाफ़ के लोग थे, वे सुबह 6 बजे चलते हैं, 10 करीब ट्रेन पहुंचती है, तो करीब 9.00 बजे वे ब्रेक - फ़ास्ट कर रहे थे, विजिलेंस विभाग वाले आ गए और

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वे भी उनके साथ बैठ गए। फिर वे आपस में हिसाब – किताब करने लगे। उन्हीं में से एक मेरे पास आकर बोला कि साट्व विजिलेंस वाले भी कहते हैं कि पैसे लाओ नहीं तो आपके खिलाफ़ केस बनाएंगे और इस बात पर झगड़ा हो गया। झगड़ा यहां तक हुआ कि उन्होंने शिकायत कर दी।

श्री सभापति: आप सवाल पूछिए, यह तो आपने बता ही दिया है।

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा: सर मैं बता रहा हूं।

श्री सभापति: बताने की बात नहीं है, वह उन्हें मालूम नहीं है। आप सवाल कीजिए।

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा: सर, मैंने एक सवाल तो यह किया कि बढ़ोतरी के क्या कारण हैं? दूसरा मेरा यह सवाल है कि खेत ही बाड़ को खाती है, क्या रेलवे में यह कहावत सच साबित हो रही है और क्या इस प्रकार की आपको शिकायत मिली है? यदि मिली है तो कितनी शिकायतें मिली हैं, कितनों को आपने टर्मिनेट किया है, अब तक कितनों को आपने सस्पेंड किया है, यह मंत्री महोदय बताए ?

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, the hon. Member referred to the fact that the number of ticketless travellers is increasing. I have given the figures about the amounts collected from them. We have to bear in mind the fact that the Indian Railways is a very, large network wherein about 130 lakh passengers are travelling every day. The number is also increasing because of the increase in the population and the mobility of people. It is inevitable that a large number of ticketless travellers are apprehended. I may inform the hon. House that because of the efforts taken to see that ticketless travellers are apprehended, now there is an increase in the sale of tickets immediately. It has been worked out that there is an 8.3 per cent increase immediately after such effective, massive, checks that are being conducted. I have already mentioned that there have been a few cases of some railway employees also being involved. I do not have specific figures regarding such persons involved. I will collect the information and make it available to the hon. Member.

SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKARASU: The statement seems to be totally defamatory and derogatory. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he has received any complaint like this; whether it

has really happened in the Railway Ministry or not; if it has been received, what action has been taken against them; if it is false, what action you propose to take. According to me, if the allegation made in the newspaper report is false, it is highly defamatory, But if it is true, what action do you propose to take?

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, I have mentioned at the very outset, that in the course of the massive checks that had been conducted-I have enumerated some of them-it has come to light that some important persons, including political workers, Government employees and, in fact, police officials and officers, were involved; they have all been apprehended. This shows that it is not a practice which is being resorted to by the common people alone. Even the people from whom we expect much more dutifulness and much more discipline, etc. are also involved; it is very unfortunate. The facts have come to my notice. I have seen the report. There is no denial about these things; some people were apprehended, and the report itself indicates that cases have been filed against those persons who were involved in this.

PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Sir, the statement itself has indicated that in a random checking conducted for one week, they have collected Rs. 3.97 lakhs. The total number of ticketless travellers apprehended during the year 2001 was 140.77 lakhs. I want to know from the Minister whether the information given by you is based on a daily assessment or a random assessment.

The second part of my question is, the reply given by the hon. Minister to the question put by the hon. Member shows their inability to control ticketless travelling. Why can't they think of taking penal action against the ticketless travellers?

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, there are two parts. I will answer the second part first. In the Indian Railway Act, there is already a provision for punishing the people who are travelling without tickets. In fact, we are trying to see that the punishment is enhanced so that it becomes very difficult for persons to resort to this practice.

As regards the first part of the question, I have already given the reply while answering another question. About Rs. 3.97 lakhs

have been collected in the special drive against ticketless travel conducting during the week, 21.1.2002—27.1.2002. The drive was conducted at three places—Delhi, New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin.

डा. अबरार अहमद: सभापति महोदय मैं मंत्री जी से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो बिना टिकट यात्रा करने की प्रवृत्ति है, इससे रेलवे को बहुत अधिक घाटा होता है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस प्रवृत्ति को रोकने के लिए सरकार के पास कोई अवेरनैस कार्यक्रम भी है जिससे कम से कम लोग बिना टिकट यात्रा करें ?

महोदय मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि कुछ ऐसे कारण भी हैं जब यात्री न चाहते हुए भी बिना टिकट यात्रा करते हैं। कुछ ट्रेनें ऐसे स्थानों पर रुकती हैं जहाँ का टिकट नहीं दिया जाता है। जैसे जयपुर – मुम्बई, सुपर फ़ास्ट, सवाई माधोपुर जिला मुख्यालय पर रुकती है। जब हम सवाई माधोपुर से जयपुर जाते हैं तो टिकट मिलता है, लेकिन जयपुर से जब यह चलती है तो सवाई माधोपुर का टिकट नहीं दिया जाता, लेकिन कोटा तक का टिकट दिया जाता है जो जयपुर – सवाई माधोपुर की दूरी से ढ़ाई गुना है। तो बड़े अच्छे-अच्छे लोग जाते हुए भी टिकट नहीं मिलने के कारण बिना टिकट यात्रा करते हैं कि ठीक है अगर टी. टी. ई. आ जाएगा तो पैसा दे देंगे वरना कोई बात नहीं है। जाने के लिए सवाई माधोपुर या जयपुर का टिकट मिलता है लेकिन जयपुर से सवाई माधोपुर आने के लिए टिकट नहीं मिलता तो इस प्रकार की बहुत सारी ट्रेनें देश के अंदर होंगी, बहुत सारे स्टॉपेज होंगे। तो क्या रेल मंत्री जी भी यह भी व्यवस्था करेंगे कि जो ट्रेन कहीं रुकती है तो उस स्थान का टिकट निश्चित रूप से मिले।

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, I entirely agree with the hon. Member's suggestion that there should be an awareness campaign about the ticketless travelling that it is not only illegal, but also an anti-societal act. We intend to carry on this sort of campaign, in a big way.

Secondly, the hon. Member has pointed out a specific case about a particular station where there is a difficulty in getting tickets in time, etc. I will definitely look into this specific allegation.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, I would like to know whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Railways under which passengers would be able to buy unreserved tickets from any place in the country, to any destination. With such a system in place, people can easily purchase tickets, which will result in a decrease in the number of ticketless travellers in the

trains and the Railways can earn more. If there is a proposal, by which time, would this scheme be launched?

My second supplementary is: By which time, will computerised reservation system be operational in all the stations in the country?

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, he has put a specific question about the computerisation of reservation system. In this year's Railway Budget itself, we have made it clear that this year is being treated as "Passengers' Amenities Year". We have decided to provide computerised reservation system at as many stations as possible. We have given a long list of names. Over and above, we are thinking in terms of providing computerised reservation system in every district headquarters in the country, even where there is no railway. We are thinking in terms of introducing computerised reservation system this Year, not only for reservation, but also for unreserved tickets.

Indo-French co-operation in education

*643. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:†

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and France have decided to increase cooperation in the area of education;

(b) if so, what are the agreements reached between the two countries in this regard; and

(c) whether any programme of action has been undertaken by both the countries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA] : (a) to (c) The Indo French Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) 2000—2002 was signed in New Delhi on 10th March, 2000 during the 13th Session of the Joint Indo-French Commission for Cooperation in the field of Science, Education and Culture. It is being implemented by the concerned organisations.

† Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.