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Need to allocate the required amount of Rupees 96 crore for doubling the Madurai-Dindigul railway line.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL): Madurai-Chennai track in the Southern Railway is the much-patronised route on which the railway gets more passenger revenue. At present, every day Express trains are running on this route apart from weekly trains and passenger trains. All the trains are running to their full capacity even though there is much demand for more trains on this route because of the over utilisation of this track which is said to be 160 per cent. This is the shortest route to North India destinations from Kerala instead of *via* West Coast.

Initially, a stretch of about 60 kms. between Madurai and Dindigul has been decided to be doubled at a cost of Rupees 96 crores. But only a paltry amount has been allocated so far to keep the project alive. There has been repeated demand in Parliament by us and various organisations to give top priority to this project. By completing this project earnestly the Railway will be able to get sufficient returns on the investment on this project.

I urge upon the hon. Minister for Railways to allocate the needed Rs.96 crore in the ensuing Budget with a commitment to complete the project before 31st March, 2006.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up Item No.13, that is, Discussion under Rule 193. The time allotted for this discussion is four hours. Shri Basu Deb Acharia is to initiate the discussion.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE): Sir, I have got a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Under what rule are you raising the point of order?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, I am raising the point of order under Rule 376 (1). It says:

"A point of order shall relate to the interpretation of enforcement of these rules or such Articles of the Constitution asâ€¦"

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Under what rule are you raising the point of order?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Under Rule 376 (1). Sir, you first listen to me what I wish to say. You can say that there is no point of order but at least listen to me.

"A point of order shall relate to the interpretation of enforcement of these rules or such Articles of the Constitution as regulate the business of the House. "

Sir, since the beginning of the 14th Lok Sabha, it seems that all the discussions under Rule 193 have been started by one particular group of Members belonging to the Left. When more than one Member gives notice on the same subject, how and who selects the name of the Member in whose name the discussion stands? A message is being sent outside as if only one group of Members is interested in the discussion and other Members just come to sit and watch the proceedings.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, I would just like to know the rule. In the rule regarding Short Duration Discussion, nowhere it has been mentioned as to how the name of the initiator, if more than one Member have given notice, will be selected. It is very strange. If you start from the beginning of this Lok Sabha, almost all the discussions have been started by the Left Party Member. We have also given notice. A number of notices have been given by us.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGHLY): Sir, he should be educated on the procedure for selection of names....(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Will they educate us all the time?

They are the most educated people. But how do we know? You please give your ruling on this. I would just like to know from you as to how it is selected. There are so many Members who had given notice on the same subject.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is no point of order on this.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, you can reject my point of order, but I would like to know as to how it is selected. They want to give out a message that they are the people who only are interested on issues like poverty and every other such problem in this country and not us. I want your ruling on this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can meet the hon. Speaker and he would explain to you everything.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

* Not Recorded.