

earlier Sir, when this matter was taken up, some companies went to the Court. Some went to the High Court and some went to the Supreme Court. But, the Supreme Court has decided in our favour and upheld the view that the Government has got the power and the competence to fix the prices of drugs. That price has been upheld by the Supreme Court. It was in a way challenged by the drug companies. That case was decided in April, May, 1987. Till then we could not do anything at all. So, only later on action could be taken and there was scrutiny and examination of the accounts of these firms. Some Committees were also set up in the Ministry by the previous Government. They went into the whole question and those calculations were challenged by the Members of Parliament. The figures calculated by Murti and Kalyan Sundaram Committees were challenged by Members of Parliament. Several letters came to the Ministry and others also wrote about it. Therefore, the Department decided to have a fresh scrutiny. A review of the whole matter has been done. Since, I took over, there was a change and it has been done now. Therefore, let my friend be rest assured that I will not lag behind in taking any step to collect these arrears and these amounts have already been fixed tentatively, as I said, and further investigations are on.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DASAI CHOWDHARY: Sir, if money is due from farmers it is recovered along with interest. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the dues will be recovered from the companies along with interest?

[*English*]

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, that aspect is there. The point is the arrears are due from these companies. They have not paid fully. Only a small amount has been paid to the Government. They are keeping this amount with them. They are utilising this amount, which is in fact due to us. I am aware of this thing. Let

us see how best we can go about and collect this amount.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: His question is whether you are going to charge interest...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DASAI CHOWDHARY: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, arrears due from the farmers are recovered from them along with interest. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will charge interest on dues recoverable from certain drug companies.

[*English*]

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, I am myself a farmer and I know the difficulties of the farmers. Therefore, I need not be told about the problems of the farmers. The interest or whatever the dues are, will be recovered from these companies according to law. I have told earlier that law will take its own course. That covers interest also. I hope the hon. Member does not want more elaboration on this. Law will take its own course in respect of all these.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Sir, the hon. Minister says one thing and the industry people say something else. Meanwhile many companies in the industry have become sick. Will Government take a decision only after the entire industry becomes sick.

[*English*]

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, this is a different matter. The question is about arrears; it is not about sickness.

Increase in Accommodation in Trains from Patna

*370. **SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be Pleased to state:

(a) the existing reserved seating and sleeper capacity, both A/C as well as

non-A/C compartments in Magadh Super Fast Express, Ex-Patna to Delhi, both in Up and Dn;

(b) whether a large number of passengers are disappointed because they do not get accommodation even in 1st Class;

(c) the quota of berths in North East Express and Tinsukia in A/C sleeper and First Class from Patna Junction;

(d) whether Government propose to increase the accommodation both in A/C sleeper and 1st Class from Patna to Delhi on these trains; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) The number of berths available and at Delhi towards Patna by for reservation at Patna towards Delhi Magadh Express is as under:

	<i>Ist A.C.C.</i>	<i>A.C. Sleeper</i>	<i>Ist Class</i>	<i>IInd Class</i>
At Patna in 2391 Magadh Express	14 (on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday)	28 (on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday) 69 (on Monday, Wednesday and Friday)	20	366
At New Delhi in 2392 Magadh Express	12 (on Monday, Wednesday and Friday)	34 (on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday) 80 (on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday)	20	293

(b) Heavy waiting lists are noticed during peak seasons.

(c) A quota of 2 AC Sleeper berths each by Tinsukia Mail in either direction and North East Express towards Guwahati has been provided at Patna. No quota has been provided in First Class.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Trains are running with maximum permissible loads and no room

is available for additional coaches, lower class accommodation cannot be reduced and for want of upper class coaches including AC Sleeper.

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wanted to know about Magadh Superfast Express Ex-Patna to Delhi. This is linked with our State. A large number of labourers of Bihar live in Delhi and there are no additional coaches in this

super fast train for them. Does Government propose to run a special train for these poor people who cannot pay for reservation of seats.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a new train is being introduced from this month itself.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, does Government propose to attach additional coaches in Tinsukia Mail, Magadh Express and North-East Express?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: There is no such proposal at present.

SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Magadh Express which operates between Delhi and Patna and then between Patna and Bhagalpur as Vikramshila Express does not have any AC/2 tier bogey attached to it for Bhagalpur. Does Government propose to attach AC/2 tier bogies in Vikramshila Express between Patna and Bhagalpur?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: No such proposal is under consideration at present.

SHRI R. N. RAKESH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I want to thank the hon. Minister through you for announcing the introduction of a new train. I would like to know from hon. Minister whether this new train will also stop at important places like Allahabad, Harbari, Sirathu and Khaga as passengers are facing great problem there. Will Government consider providing stoppage of this train at these stations.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this train will run via Moradabad, Lucknow, Varanasi and Mugalsarai.

SHRI R. N. RAKESH: Is Allahabad not included?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: No, it is not.

[English]

SHRI PALAI K. M. MATHEW: Sir, Kerala is a highly literate State. Because of this and also for other reasons, the Kerala people are very mobile and they are always moving about all over India for various reasons. All the trains going from Kerala and coming to Kerala or going through Kerala are highly overcrowded. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, whether the Government would consider adding one more train from Trivandrum or Kanyakumari to Delhi and also adding more bogies for the other trains. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I will need notice for it.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the North-East Express and the Tinsukia Mail are the two mail trains running from North East region to Delhi. Even in the chicken packing box you will get some space, but in these trains there is no space at all and the conditions of passengers are worse than the chickens. That is a fact. So, under these circumstances, as the trains are overcrowded, would the hon. Minister please think of withdrawing the reservation quota from Patna to Delhi in these trains?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: There are no such plans. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, North-East Express passes through Bhojpur district. Many people of Bhojpur district work in Calcutta, Assam and Delhi, who often go to Patna. Will hon. Minister consider to provide stoppage of North-East Express at Bhojpur?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: No such proposal is under consideration at present.

SHRI HARBHAJAN LAKHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to thank the hon. Minister for

providing stoppage of Himgiri Express at Phagwara. For this, I would like to thank him on behalf of the local people. Besides, Phagwara is an industrial town so arrangements should be made to provide A.C. and first class reservation facility in all the trains. Reservation facility should also be provided in Phagwara.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:
All right, we will consider it.

[English]

SHRI NANDU THAPA: Sir, in Sikkim there is no railway. We depend on New Jalpaiguri Railway station in North Bengal. There is one train. Delhi-Katihar Express. This terminates at Katihar. There is a broad-gauge line up to New Jalpaiguri. I do not know why the Ministry has not extended this train up to New Jalpaiguri. This would serve North Bengal, Sikkim, Bhutan and part of Nepal also. I do not know what the Minister has to say about it.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:
I will examine the proposal. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Yuvraj.

[Translation]

SHRI YUVRAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the total number of A.C. sleepers and first class seats in North-East Express and Tinsukia Mail which runs between Patna and Delhi. Railway Minister has announced that facilities would be provided to all the passengers with a view to bring quality. What new provisions have been made in North-East Express to provide facilities to the passengers of second class.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:
Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are three trains. One is Magadh Express, second is North-East Express and third one is Tinsukia Mail. There are first class and A.C. coaches in Magadh Express which runs three days a week. One second A.C. sleeper is attached four days a week and two second A.C. sleepers are attached three days a week.

There are two bogies of first class. There are 9 bogies of reserved second class, 4 bogies are unreserved in second class. There are two S.L.R. and one pantry car. There are total 20 bogies. There is A.C. first class once in a week in North-East Express, there is one A.C. sleeper, 2 first class bogies, 9 second class sleepers and 3 second class unreserved bogies. There is one S.L.R. and one pantry car. There is only one second class A.C. sleeper in Tinsukia Mail and there are two first class bogies, 11 second class sleepers, 3 unreserved second class and one sleeper cum S.L.R. and pantry car.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Railway Minister has received any complaints of corruption in reservation and that people manage to get seats unauthorisedly in the trains between Delhi and Patna. The people who get their seats reserved face lot of difficulties. What arrangements are being made in this regard?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:
Mr. Speaker, Sir, many complaints regarding occupying seats unauthorisedly in reserved bogies have been received and action has been taken thereon. So far as complaints about corruption are concerned, these are investigated immediately.

[English]

Expansion of existing units of NTPC

*371. **SHRI NAKUL NAYAK:**
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has any proposal to expand its existing units in the Eighth Plan;

(b) if so, the plan drawn by the NTPC for each unit;

(c) whether the NTPC has any proposal to set up new thermal power plant during the Plan period; and

(d) if so, the details of the sites selected for the establishment of new thermal power plants by NTPC in the Eighth Plan?