

## STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Blast in Jammu-Bound Jhelum Express at Ambala Cantonment on 7.12.1996-Contd.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Madam, we made a point earlier. This is not a simple railway accident. This is an act of terrorists. Therefore, in the fitness of things, if the statement had come from the Home Minister, I think, it could have covered the proper ambit of the entire development.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then, your suggestion is that the hon. Home Minister should also be present... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI VISHNU, KANT SHASTRI: Madam, I support him. ... *(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Tomorrow or whenever it is listed. ... *(Interruptions)*... Today it is too late.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (Goa): Madam, the hon. Home Minister can also intervene. The Railway Minister is here. ... *(Interruptions)*... The Statement has already been made by the Railway Minister.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: The Railway Minister has already come with a statement ... *(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me hear the Home Minister.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): A statement has already been made in this House by the hon. Railway Minister, and then I was told that members had insisted here that when the time comes for them to seek clarifications and so on, I must be present. That is why I came.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Home Minister, your presence will mean that Members would put questions to you too.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: They may put questions to me. They have every right to do so. Before that, if it so pleases you, then I would like to add some

information which has come to us only in the last one hour. I wish to add that and you can take it as some sort of a supplementary statement to what the Railway Minister has already said. It is up to you to decide whether you have...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not a statement. Statement on the railway accident has already been made by the Minister of Railways.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Madam, the Minister is ready to make a statement.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He did it, perhaps, when you were not here. I am sorry that Members don't remain in the House and when the discussion takes place they ask as to where the statement is. You locate it. You ask your colleagues who were present in the House. A statement on the railway accident has already been made. Now the Minister has come to reply to clarifications. Even the Home Minister has come for supplementing the information because of the request of the Members. Mr. Home Minister.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I have some supplementary information.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You please share that supplementary information with the House. I will not allow any Member to interrupt you.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Madam, the blast in the train \*at Ambala took place, as you know, in the very early hours of the morning. A joint team, consisting of the Special Secretary (Security) of the Ministry of Home Affairs, a Deputy Director in the IB, and an Additional Commissioner of Police, Special Branch, Delhi, was sent to Chandigarh to take stock of the situation and to co-ordinate the efforts of investigation and so on. As far as the casualties are concerned, I have nothing to add to what the Railway Minister has already said. The same figures which he gave have been corroborated by the team which went from here. The Haryana Police, the Punjab Police and the Delhi

Police are making a co-ordinated effort for investigation of the whole affair and forensic science experts from Haryana and Punjab have also visited the site in order to determine the nature of explosion, what actually caused the explosion. Madam, this team which was sent this morning was quite a high-level team.

It has come back about a little more than an hour ago from Ambala cantonment and they say that according to indications available at present, the explosion appears to have been caused by RDX type of material. This explosive material was reportedly kept in a suitcase or a bag under scat number 64 in a sleeper coach. Samples have been taken from the spot but the analysis report is still to come. The officials of Haryana, Punjab and Delhi police who visited the spot say that there does not appear to be any evidence of using any timer device. It could have been a remote controlled device, in which case, of course, it could have been triggered off at the Ambala station itself or it could be a timer bomb device which they say is more likely. The train was running a little late. It left the cantonment station about ten minutes late. If there were a timer device, it could have gone off after the train had actually entered Punjab. This is more likely. And that was the intention. The Jhelum Express was running behind schedule by about half an hour. It appears that the blast was planned to take place in the running train once the train had entered Punjab area after leaving Ambala station in which case the casualty might have been much more. No terrorist group as yet has claimed responsibility for the blast. The indications are that it could have been planned by the *Babbar Khalsa*. The Special Secretary, Internal Security, Ministry of Home Affairs, held a meeting at Chandigarh at 11. a.m. with the Home Secretaries and the Director Generals of Police of Punjab and Haryana. There was a joint meeting which took stock of the situation and called for tightening of the security at public places. Government

buildings and security of protected persons including targeted Akali leaders. You know, Madam, one Akali MLA was also shot dead at Ropar yesterday. There is an apprehension that these terrorist activities may have something to do with the coming elections. Co-ordinated action involving the IB and the Police of Punjab, Haryana the UT of Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Delhi was stressed. Joint raids, exchange of lists of terrorists and of intelligence input was emphasised. It was also suggested that Security should be beefed up for the trains, all night buses passing through Haryana and Punjab. It is also directed that all buses and trains should be fully protected by the State police and the GRP and the RPF. It was decided also that after development of information and co-ordinations between intelligence agencies and the police force, simultaneous raids should be carried out at those terrorist hideouts about which they have got information. This is all I have got at the moment. I am afraid, I am not able to add anything to it just now. If by tomorrow or tomorrow morning some further factual information is available, I will be glad to share it in the House.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have certain names and beyond that I cannot allow.

AN HON. MEMBER: I want to ask the Home Minister....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There are 12 names already. I would call them one by one, and if time permits, you also can ask.

**श्री विष्णु कान्त शास्त्री (उत्तर प्रदेश):** आदरणीय उपसभापति महोदया, यह एक बहुत ही गंभीर दुर्घटना हमारे देश में घटी है. दुर्भाग्य की बात यह है कि इस बात की पूर्व सूचनाएं बार-बार दी गई थीं, यह आशंका प्रकट की गई थी कि पाकिस्तानी या दूसरे आतंकवादी पंजाब की शांति को भंग करने की पूरी चेष्टा करेंगे और यह आशंका दुर्भाग्य से सच साबित हुई। यह ठीक है कि यह कहना घटना के बाद बहुत आसान होता है कि यदि इस प्रकार की सुरक्षा की व्यवस्था की जाती तो इस

प्रकार की दुर्घटना नहीं होती लेकिन अब भी जैसा कि माननीय गृह मंत्री जी ने कहा कि एक बहुत ही शक्तिशाली आतंकवादी दल की ओर हमारी शंका जाती है, संदेह जाता है कि "बम्बर खालसा" जैसे कट्टर आतंकवादी दल ने यह दुर्घटना घटाई होगी। तो मैं यह मानता हूँ कि सारे पंजाब में और पाकिस्तान से जुड़े हुए अंचलों में इस बात की पूरी खबरदारी की जानी चाहिए जिससे कि ये आतंकवादी दुर्घटनाएं और संख्या में न बढ़ सकें। बार-बार हमारे मित्रों ने पाकिस्तान को समझौते की और प्रेम की बात कही है। समझौता और प्रेम हम भी चाहते हैं, लेकिन किस कीमत पर? समझौता और प्रेम किस आधार पर? जब वह हमारे ऊपर हमला कर रहा हो, कश्मीर में, पंजाब में, उत्तर-पूर्वोत्तर में हमारे खिलाफ लड़ाई लड़ रहा है और तब हम उसके प्रति केवल मोह की सृष्टि करते रहें, केवल उनके प्रति एक गलत उदाहरण पेश करते रहें तो यह ठीक नहीं होगा। इसलिए माननीया उपसभापति जी, मैं अपनी सरकार से मांग करता हूँ कि आतंकवादी गतिविधियों को नियंत्रित करने के लिए पूरी सख्ती बरती जाए, किसी भी प्रकार की ढिलाई, किसी भी प्रकार का अतिरिक्त आत्म-

[सभाध्यक्ष (श्री सनातन बिसि) पीठासीन हुए]  
विश्वास हमारे हमारे सामने न झलके। मैं यह भी जानता हूँ, जैसा कि माननीय गृह मंत्री जी ने कहा कि आशंका इस बात की है कि पंजाब में चुंकि चुनाव होने जा रहे हैं, तो जिस प्रकार कश्मीर के चुनाव को व्यर्थ करने की चेष्टा कश्मीर के आतंकवादियों ने की थी, ठीक उसी प्रकार यह खालिस्तानी आतंकवादी, जो पाकिस्तान की सहायता से भारत को पुनः खंडित करने का दुःस्वप्न देख रहे हैं, उनको कड़ी शिक्षा देने की पूरी चेष्टा की जानी चाहिए, हम आक्रामक हों, हम उनके अड्डों पर हमला करके उन्हें नष्ट करें, यह हमारी आवश्यकता है। वे हम पर कोई आक्रमण कर दें और फिर हम उनको तलाश करते फिरें, यह जरूरी नहीं है। हमने बहुत समय नष्ट किया है, हम बहुत जल्दी अतिरिक्त आत्मविश्वास से प्रस्त हो जाते हैं। मैं यह मानता हूँ कि पंजाब में जो अच्छा काम गिल साहब ने किया था, उसकी चेष्टा को हमें आगे बढ़ाना चाहिए और पूरी जांच-पड़ताल के बाद इस बात की चेष्टा की जानी चाहिए कि ऐसी आतंकवादी दुर्घटनाएं बार-बार घटित न हों। यह ठीक है कि हम रेल की सुरक्षा के बारे में या बसों की सुरक्षा के बारे में बहुत सख्ती नहीं बरत सकते लेकिन जितनी संभावना है उतनी सावधानी बरतें और इस बात की पूरी चेष्टा करें कि इन घटनाओं को दोहराने का कोई अवसर हम उन्हें न दें। मैं

माननीय गृह मंत्री जी की उपस्थिति से उनका बहुत ही कृतज्ञ हूँ और मैं उनसे यह आश्वासन चाहता हूँ, पूरा देश उनसे यह आश्वासन चाहता है कि इस संबंध में वे सख्ती बरतेंगे और जो अपराधी हैं उनकी जड़ खोदकर उनको दंडित करेंगे। उनके प्रति किसी प्रकार की कोमलता बरतने का कोई इरादा उनका नहीं होना चाहिए। धन्यवाद।

श्री राघवजी (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदय, यह दुर्घटना बड़ी गंभीर हुई है और चिंता का विषय है। लेकिन यह इससे भी अधिक चिंता का विषय इसलिए है कि यह दुर्घटना आतंकवादियों द्वारा की गई है। पंजाब में जो आतंकवाद का दौर एक प्रकार से समाप्त सा हो रहा था, वह पुनः प्रारम्भ हुआ है, यह बहुत चिंता का विषय है क्योंकि पंजाब बरसों तक इस बर्बरता को भुगतता रहा है और इससे पूरा पंजाब अस्त-व्यस्त रहा है। इससे भी अधिक चिंता की बात यह है कि गुप्तचर विभाग ने इस बात की सूचना दी थी कि पंजाब में चुंकि चुनाव आ रहे हैं, इसलिए आतंकवादी ऐसी हरकत कर सकते हैं। उन्होंने यह भी बताया था कि दिसम्बर के प्रथम सप्ताह में होगा और दिसम्बर के प्रथम सप्ताह में हुआ उन्होंने यह भी बताया था कि जहां यह दुर्घटना हुई है, उसके आस-पास के 100 किलोमीटर के क्षेत्र में यह कांड होगा। इतनी सब जानकारी होने के बाद भी न तो रेलवे ने इसको गंभीरता से लिया और न ही सुरक्षा बलों ने इसको गंभीरता से लिया। झेलम एक्सप्रेस पूना से चलती है और जम्मू तक जाती है। यह लंबे रास्ते पर चलने वाली ट्रेन है और हर लंबे रास्ते की ट्रेन पर 4-5 सुरक्षा कर्मचारी होते हैं और वे एक-एक डिब्बे को बार-बार देखते हैं। सीट नंबर 62 पर यह आर०डी०एक्स० कैसे रह गया, यह सुरक्षाकर्मियों की निगाह से कैसे बच गया, यह जांच का विषय है। गुप्तचर विभाग ने इस बारे में लापरवाही क्यों बरती? उन्हें जो खबर मिली थी, उसको उन्होंने गंभीरता से क्यों नहीं लिया? इसकी गंभीरता से जांच होनी चाहिए और दोषी व्यक्तियों के खिलाफ कठोर कार्यवाही होनी चाहिए।

महोदय, मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि इधर कुछ समय से रेल दुर्घटनाएं बहुत हो रही हैं। इसके बहुत से कारण होंगे लेकिन एक कारण यह भी है कि बहुत से महत्वपूर्ण पद खाली पड़े हैं। मैं रेल मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि नार्दन रेलवे में जनरल मैनेजर वी० के० अग्रवाल, को हटाने के बाद अभी तक नए जनरल मैनेजर की नियुक्ति क्यों नहीं हुई है? जब जनरल मैनेजर नहीं होगा और कोई दूसरा कनिष्ठ अधिकारी उसके बग

को संभालेगा तो कोआर्डिनेशन का अभाव तो रहेगा ही। यह केवल नार्दन रेलवे की बात नहीं है। सेंट्रल रेलवे के जनरल मैनेजर रिटायर हुए, आज तक उनकी जगह कोई नियुक्ति नहीं हुई। वेस्टर्न रेलवे में भी कोई जनरल मैनेजर नहीं है। इसी प्रकार से रेलवे बोर्ड में मेबर (इलेक्ट्रिक) की जगह अभी तक खाली पड़ी है। तो इतने महत्वपूर्ण पद इस समय खाली पड़े हैं। मुझे लगता है कि इस समय जो रेल दुर्घटनाएं हो रही हैं, पिछले 6 महीने के अंदर ढाई सौ दुर्घटनाएं हुई हैं, इसके पीछे एक वजह यह भी रही है कि इतने महत्वपूर्ण पद रेलवे में खाली पड़े हैं।

महोदया, समाचारपत्रों में यह भी प्रकाशित हुआ है कि हमारे गुप्तचर विभाग ने यह जानकारी दी है कि इस प्रकार की घटनाएं आगे और भी होंगी क्योंकि पंजाब में चुनाव होने वाले हैं और यह भी बताया गया है कि भारतीय जनता पार्टी और अकाली दल की जो महा-रैली होने वाली है, उस रैली में इससे बड़े विस्फोट की आशंका व्यक्त की गई है। पता नहीं उसकी सुरक्षा की तैयारी गृह मंत्री जी कर रहे हैं या नहीं? पता नहीं उनके पास यह जानकारी पहुंची है या नहीं? मैं उनसे इस बारे में जानकारी चाहता हूँ।

महोदया, अभी रेल मंत्री जी ने जो विवरण दिया है, उसमें 10 व्यक्तियों के मारे जाने की बात कही गई है लेकिन अधिकांश समाचारपत्रों में 12 व्यक्तियों के मारे जाने का समाचार प्रकाशित हुआ है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि माननीय मंत्री जो इस बात को पुष्टि करें कि कौन सी बात सही है? महोदया, मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि यह मामला बहुत गंभीर है। पंजाब में आतंकवाद फिर से जन्म ले रहा है। अगर इसको अभी से नहीं रोक दिया गया तो इसके बहुत दूरगामी परिणाम होंगे। इसलिए यह केवल रेल मंत्रालय का मामला नहीं है, यह गृह मंत्रालय का भी मामला है। इस बात की गंभीरता से जांच होनी चाहिए कि गुप्तचर विभाग को जानकारी होने के बाद भी यह दुर्घटना क्यों हुई जब कि लंबी दूरी की ट्रेनों में सुरक्षा की दृष्टि से पहले से ही यह इंतजाम रहता है कि 4-5 सुरक्षाकर्मी हर डिब्बे को चौक करते हैं। फिर यह लापरवाही कैसे हुई, यह मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ।

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, going through the statement made by the hon. Railway Minister, I must say that this is a deplorable statement. The statement has been made about certain accident, loss of life and what the

Railway Ministry would like to do, to give them compensation. No where does the statement indicated that there is an action of the terrorists, that this has been deliberately done by the terrorists. The most important element of the thing is that this has been a programme of the terrorists, whatever may be the political intentions. If it is not noted there, if the Railway Ministry is not aware about the gravity of the situation, about the involvement of the terrorists, about their game-plan, then I am afraid, no preventive action can be taken by the Railways. I agree, this matter comes under the Ministry of Home Affairs, but afterall, precaution can be taken if there is a joint move. Therefore, the hon. Railway Minister's statement, I think, is devoid of the basic element, of an act of terrorists. Secondly, hon. Members have described this as an accident. It is not an accident. It is a deliberate action, of a planned nature. Therefore, it is a rare case of unparalleled brutality on the part of the terrorists.

Sir, this has its political intentions. They would like to create a scare before the elections. They would like to give the impression that terrorism has not died down. They would like to give a signal to their followers that they are very much active. They would like to give a signal that India or the people should not believe that terrorism has been liquidated in the country, as is being claimed.

It has its political intentions, for two reasons. One is because of the elections in Punjab. Another is because of the normalcy that is being restored in Kashmir. It has wider political ramifications. That should have been there in the statement.

Anyway, the main question that arises here is whether there has been any intelligence lapse. The only question that I would like the hon. Home Minister to reply is whether there has been any intelligence lapse. I say this because there are reports that there was a tip-off from certain quarters that some such thing

could happen even in a trail Is this really so? If it is really so, at what level the information was evaluated and, after evaluating the information, what preventive action was taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs, or, what action the Ministry of Home Affairs advised the Ministry of Railways to take? This is important.

The third important thing is: it is very difficult for the Government to prevent such explosions in trains, there are hundreds of trains running all over the country. But even then, I would request the hon. Home Minister and the hon. Railway Minister to kindly react. In sensitive zones covering Punjab and Kashmir, effective measures should be taken to prevent such incidents, it cannot be prevented all over the country. We do not have the kind of infrastructure needed for this. It is not possible. But at least, in the sensitive zones, effective measures should be taken; the intelligence machinery should be geared up and public vigilance should also be encouraged. For this, we need immediate action and initiative from the Ministry of Railways, guided properly by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Let us know what the Government of India is going to do in this regard.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: (Kerala): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am glad the hon. Home Minister has shared some information with the House. It is another atrocity, another heinous crime, committed by the terrorists. In this connection, I agree \* with what Mr. Guruda. Das Gupta has said. There are Press reports today. I do not want to go into the details. It is said that information was passed on by the Intelligence Bureau to the concerned authorities. That means there has been inaction on the part of the railway authorities or somebody else. Therefore, I would like to know whether information was passed on earlier or not. This is a very important thing.

Another thing is: in this statement, in

paragraph 4, you have mentioned about the registration of a case. I do not know who registered the case. Sir, it is a murder. Ten-twelve people have died. It is a murder: it is a cold-blooded murder. But the case has been registered under section 307; Section 307 is attempt to murder. It is a callous way of registering such a case. I do not want to read it out. I find that the case has been registered under section 307 and under sections 4 and 5 of the Explosive Substances Act. I do not know what kind of a police officer was he who registered the case under this section. You look at paragraph 4. Is this the way you treat the murder of ten-twelve people? I do not know. Please look into it.

The other important point I want to make is about the measures you are taking. I am glad you have talked about it here. Some five-six measures are mentioned here. But the question is: who would implement them? I appreciate what you have said. You want to make use of sniffer dogs, etc. You have also said here: 'Field staff have been advised to maintain maximum alert while on duty'. Please do one thing. Ask them not to drink; minimum. More than anybody else, your staff drink all the time. I had raised this issue many times in the House. You say that the field staff have been advised to maintain maximum alert while on duty. All right. But if they fail to take measures, on whom would you fix the responsibility? How are you going to implement these five-six commandments? What action you are going to take in this regard? Would you give an assurance that if there is any lapse on the part of any person—including the members of the Railway Board—he would be sacked? If you do not do such a thing, you cannot implement these measures. Here it is said, "Intensive security checks have been ordered to be carried out." By whom? Who will do the security checks? What is your machinery for that? And, as Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta has said, you cannot do it all over the country. Yes, in certain areas you can do surprise checks.

But none of your senior officers make any surprise checks. They do surprise checks only in the Kerala Express to loot money from the poor passengers. I know it. Sir, many times we have made complaints in this House about it. Of course, this was an explosion. But so far as the main passenger trains are concerned, gangsters get into the trains with the connivance of the Railway Protection Force and railway employees and extract and loot money from the passengers, especially in the southern parts of the country. If they can do it, then, definitely the terrorists are in a better position to cause explosions. Sir, I am only illustrating the callousness and the indifference of the railway authorities and the Railway Board in the matter of providing protection to the railway passengers.

So, the gangsters can do these things. Here I ask, what is the function of the Railway Protection Force? It is a dead force; it is a corrupt institution. They do nothing. I have never seen them doing anything. Sir, I travel quite often—not from here to Kerala, because I don't have the time, but in Kerala I do travel a lot. Not a single railway policeman ever checks a toilet. Of course, nobody can get into a toilet—they are so nasty—and I don't blame them there.

So, if you want to implement this idea, then you have to fix the responsibility, do you have any programme for fixing responsibility? That is number one. Number two: What steps are you going to take to revamp, re-organise, revitalise and make it an effective instrument for protecting, not the railways, but the passengers—their lives and their safety? Do you have any scheme for the RPF for doing this? If you don't have, please have one. The Railway Protection Force is a very big force—they have got a DGP there. Therefore, Sir, I want to know what steps they are going to take in this connection so far as the RPF is concerned.

Sir, the railways have to implement

specific programmes. You need an infrastructure. You have an organisation called the Railway Protection Force, but the most lazy, unwanted and corrupt policemen operate there. So you have to do a lot of things there, and for that you need to have a programme.

Now that this new development has taken place, of terrorist activity shifting to running trains, killing people and doing such other things—and the hon. Home Minister has rightly said that it could be because the Punjab terrorists might have taken a new line—and you have said that you are having combing operations and all that, this House wants to know what further steps you are going to take by coordination among all the agencies and to what extent you would implement the programmes to protect the lives of the people travelling by trains.

Thank you.

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I must applaud the hon. Minister of Railways, the Chairman of the Railway Board and other officials who had taken immediate initiative to reach the spot of the accident.

May I request the hon. Home Minister to kindly apprise this House: Is it at all true that an intelligence report had reached the Punjab and Haryana police, a few days back, regarding possible blasts anywhere near Ludhiana during the first week of December? If this report is at all true, when did this information reach the Punjab and Haryana police, and what action was taken thereafter? I would also like to know whether there was any preventive plan for security to commuters in the context of possible attacks prior to the Punjab elections?

Sir, my other questions are related to the Ministry of Railways. I want to know whether any report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety is available with the Minister of Railways regarding earlier blasts, and is the Minister of Railways planning any specific measures to prevent unauthorised entry and travel in the

ordinary three-tier sleeper coaches of passenger trains? Will a section of the Railway Police and the RPF be prevented by the Ministry of Railways from collecting money from unauthorised passengers in the ordinary three-tier sleeper coaches? Also, is there any plan to limit the number of passengers in the unreserved coaches of ordinary trains? They are also high-risk areas. If there is planning to plant any explosives, they can do it much more easily in an unreserved compartment. Is there any programme to limit the number of passengers in the unreserved compartments as well?

Thank you.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Sir, for the first time we are disputing who should make a statement. The convention of this House is that if a railway accident occurs, it is the Railway Minister who should make a statement. If there is a bomb-blast in a bus, the Home Minister makes a statement. But the Railway Minister is within his right because all the railways are manned by the Railways Police personnel. Even in the States, though law and order is a State matter, security is a State matter, the Railway Ministry has its own Railway Police personnel.

If we go back to the explosion of bombs in Bombay, it is a known fact that 1,000 kg. of RDX was missing. It was stated that 1,000 kg. of RDX had left for northern India in a truck and that this RDX was smuggled from the Konkan coast in connivance with the Customs officials. We know that one of the Assistant Commissioners of Customs had been held under the TAD A. So far nothing has been done by the Government to unearth that RDX. I think prevention will be better than cure. I want to know from the Government, from the Finance Ministry, what steps the Customs Department has taken to unearth this RDX and what steps the Home Ministry has taken to unearth that 1,000 kg. of RDX which is lying underground in our country. They use

only a little amount of RDX. I think, for the explosion which we saw on the TV, the Doordarshan, half a kilogramme of RDX is enough to blow up the bogey. So, we are still sitting on a time-bomb. So much of RDX is still lying undetected. So, I think, it will be very relevant for the Home Minister to take action on this matter. The Home Minister himself has said, "I think the Railway Minister has made a statement at four o'clock. There is nothing in his note that the substance was RDX. There is a possibility that it was RDX." So, I think, the Home Minister will be within his right to see that the RDX is unearthed.

The hon. Railway Minister has mentioned about six dos and don'ts. He mentions that they are using sniffer dogs wherever they are available. I think, if you do not have sniffer dogs in all the railway stations, it is useless to have sniffer dogs in Punjab because a train can start from Trivandrum or Madras, with a time-bomb. The clock of a time-bomb is programmed not only for 24 hours but also for 365 days. So, a bomb can be placed anywhere in the country. So, the right thing for the Railway Minister will be to see that there are sniffer dogs in all the railway stations to sniff the RDX.

Will they take the help of the State Government, the State Police to see that the baggage is properly scrutinised and checked at the railway stations? If you go to a railway platform, you find visitors with the passengers. You find vagabonds and beggars also. I don't think that they can check these people for bombs. The Minister has mentioned that checking is being done in the coaches and in the washing yards. I have made a suggestion in the past that no person who is not a passenger, should be permitted to enter a platform unless he accompanies a handicapped person. Will the Railway Minister do away with the system of allowing visitors to the platforms because there is no need for this? If you go to foreign countries, you find nobody there except the passengers. The Indian

platform is worse than a slum. You find beggars, anti-social elements and everybody else there. Why does the Railway Minister not take this into cognizance and stop the issuing of the platform tickets because they are not visitors but they are permanent residents of the platform? They have all the facilities there. They have got the toilet, and they have got water for bathing. They have got catering facilities. So, I think, it is high time that in the name of security the Railway Minister put a ban to this. I think this is the only way in which the security can be maintained. Otherwise, whatever steps you take, it will be very difficult to control the acts of terrorists.

Sir, the hon. Minister has suspected the Babbar Khalsa. No one has claimed credit for this bomb-blast. We have a statement from the Foreign Minister that the Talibans are training Pakistani nationals and that the ISI people are being pumped into the country for terrorist activities.

Arc we also maintaining a strict vigil on the borders in view of the impending elections in Punjab? In February, we are going to have elections. I think, if the Government is going to start the barbing of the remaining part of the borders, naturally, the activities will be more intensified. I want to know whether the Defence Ministry and the Home Ministry will see that our borders are tightened in view of India's stand *vis-a-vis* Afghanistan.

**श्री जलालुद्दीन अंसारी (बिहार):** आमतौर पर रेलवे में जो दुर्घटनाएं होती हैं, यह दुर्घटना उस तरह की नहीं है, यह अपने किस्म की एक खास दुर्घटना है जो अम्बाला में घटी है। इस संबंध में पुलिस पदाधिकारी के टेलीविजन में जो बयान आये थे उनमें भी उन्होंने कहा है कि आरडीएक्स जैसे विस्फोटक पदार्थ के जरिये यह विस्फोट किया गया है, यह उनकी संभावना है। इस घटना के बाद हमारे रेल मंत्री जी वहां गये। जो 12 लोग मारे गये उन्होंने उनको देखा और घायलों को भी देखा। मारे गये लोगों के परिवारों को और घायलों को मुआवजा देने की राशि का जो उन्होंने अपना बयान देते

हुए ऐलान किया है, मैं उसका स्वागत करता हूं। गृह मंत्री जी ने कुछ सूचनाएं हम लोगों को दी हैं और बताया है कि वहां एक उच्चस्तरीय टीम गृह मंत्रालय की ओर से भेजी गई है जो इस घटना की छान-बीन करेगी कि इस घटना में किस तरह के तत्वों का हाथ है। लेकिन यह बात स्पष्ट है कि अपने देश के कुछ हिस्सों, पंजाब और कश्मीर में आतंकवादी कार्रवाई एक हद तक समाप्त हो गई है। अभी भी कुछ आतंकवादी संगठन हैं जो अपनी आतंकवादी कार्रवाइयों से बाज आने वारे नहीं हैं। पंजाब के मुख्य मंत्री बेअन्त सिंह बराड़ की जिस तरह से हत्या की गई और इस घटना के साथ ही कल पंजाब में अकाली दल के एक नेता की भी हत्या हुई, ये सारी बातें इस्तिफा हो रही हैं कि पंजाब में कुछ दिनों के बाद विधान सभा का चुनाव होने वाला है और दुनिया के सामने ये आतंकवादी गिरोह बीच-बीच में इस तरह के जघन्य अपराध करके यह बताने की कोशिश करते हैं कि उनका सफाया अभी नहीं हुआ है। दिल्ली में कुछ ही दिन पहले आरडीएक्स पकड़ा गया था। यहाँ हमारे गृह मंत्री जी मौजूद हैं, हमारे रेल राज्य मंत्री भी मौजूद हैं, हमारे माननीय साथी श्री वायालार रवि जी ने ठीक कहा कि आर.पी.एफ. रेलवे प्रोटेक्शन फोर्स, ये क्या रेलवे की सम्पत्ति की रक्षा करती है, रेलवे-यात्रियों की रक्षा करती है? इसकी निगाह एक ही जगह टिकी रहती है कि गरीब लोगों की गठरी कहाँ पर है और उनके सामान को देखकर कहेंगे कि कितना सामान है, पैसा लाओ। हमारे बिहार सूबे से हजारों-हजार मजदूर पंजाब व अन्य राज्यों में जाकर के काम करते हैं और जब वे काम करके अपने सूबे में जाते हैं तो उनके पास टिकट होती है फिर भी वे लोग कहते हैं कि स्लीपर ब्लास में घुस गये जबकि वे छत पर चढ़कर जाते हैं। उन गरीब लोगों के पास से ये लोग उनकी सारी गाढ़ी कमाई के पैसे को और टिकट को भी छीन लेते हैं।

यहां रेलवे के बड़े पदाधिकारी भी उपस्थित हैं, मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि अगर यही हाल आपका रहा तो आपका रेलवे प्रशासन और रेलवे प्रोटेक्शन फोर्स आतंकवादियों की कार्रवाइयों का मुकाबला नहीं कर सकता है। मैं सदन के माध्यम से इस सरकार को कहना चाहता हूं और देश की जनता को भी बताना चाहता हूं कि यह बिल्कुल ही असक्षम है, इसलिए कि वे केवल पैसा कमाने के धंधे में लगे रहते हैं और यात्रियों तथा रेलवे की सुरक्षा से अपना ध्यान अलग रखते हैं। तो मैं रेल मंत्री जी को कहना चाहता हूं कि आप अपने रेलवे प्रशासन और रेलवे प्रोटेक्शन फोर्स को इस लायक बनाइए ताकि वह सुरक्षा के कामों को करने में सक्षम हो

\*[] Transliteration ii.' Arabic Script.

دی میں کچھ ہی دن پہلے آر۔ ٹی۔ ایکس  
پکڑا گیا تھا۔ یہاں ہمارے گزہ منتری جی  
موجود ہیں۔ ہمارے ریل راجیہ منتری جی  
بھی موجود ہیں۔ ہمارے مانیہ سماجی  
منشی ویلاڈروی جی نے میٹنگ کہا کہ  
آر۔ پی۔ ایف ریلوے پروسیکشن فورس  
یہ کیا ریلوے کی سمیٹی کی کونسلگری ہے۔  
انکی نگاہ ایک ہی جگہ ٹکی رہتی ہیں کہ  
غریب لوگوں کی گھڑی کہاں پر ہے۔ اور  
انکے سامان کو دیکھ کر کہیں گے کہ کتنا سامان  
ہے۔ پیسہ لاؤ۔ ہمارے بہادر صوبے میں  
بڑا دھڑا سفر در پچھاب دانے راجیوں  
میں جانر کے کام کرتے ہیں۔ اور جب وہ کام  
صوبے میں جاتے ہیں تو انکے پاس ٹکٹ ہوتی  
ہے پھر بھی وہ لوگ کہتے ہیں کہ سلیمیر کلاس  
میں ٹکٹس گئے جب کہ وہ چھت پر چڑھ کر  
جاتے ہیں۔ ان غریب لوگوں کے پاس سے  
یہ لوگ انکی ساری گاڑی کھا جائے گی  
کو اور ٹکٹ کو بھی چھین لیتے ہیں۔ یہاں  
ریلوے کے بڑے پورا دھیکاری بھی اس وقت  
ہیں۔ میں کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ اگر ہی حال  
آپکار۔ یا تو آپکار ریلوے پر شاسی اور  
ریلوے پروسیکشن فورس آتنگ وادیوں  
کی کارروائیوں کا مقابلہ نہیں کر سکتا  
ہے۔ میں سون کے مادہ میں سے اس ہر کار  
کو کہنا چاہتا ہوں اور دیش کی جفتا کو

میں بتانا چاہتا ہوں کہ بالکل ہی اسگنٹ ہے  
اسلئے کہ کیوں وہ پیسہ کمانے کے دھندے  
میں لگے رہتے ہیں اور یا تو یہ تو تھا ریلوے  
کی سرکشا سے اپنا دھیان الگ رکھتے ہیں۔  
تو میں ریل منتری جی کو کہنا چاہتا ہوں۔  
کہ آپ اپنے ریلوے پر شاسی اور ریلوے  
پروسیکشن فورس کو اس لائق بنائیے  
تا کہ وہ سرکشا کے کاموں کو کرنے میں سگنٹ  
ہو سکے۔ سافٹ گھاسٹ میں گزہ منتری جی  
سے کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ آٹھ کو اوروں دیش  
کے جن حصوں میں شروع ہوا تھا۔ وہ وہاں  
ختم نہیں ہوا ہے۔ وہ دھماکہ کریں گے اور  
ہمارے لوگوں کی جان لینے۔ تو اس خطرے سے  
نبشتہ کیلئے جو ٹیم آپ نے بھیجی ہے اسے سبھاؤ  
آپ کے پاس آئیگی۔ لیکن یہ جو علاقہ ہے جس  
میں میں دیہی کو بھی شامل کرتا ہوں۔ وہاں بھی  
بھی بہت ساری گزہ بڑیاں ہوتی ہیں۔ تو  
اس میں دیہی کو بھی رکھئے۔ ہریانہ۔ پنجاب  
جموں و کشمیر کا جو علاقہ ہے وہاں ان سیرتوں  
کو بہن پوائنٹ کر کے کہ کہاں پر کیا ہے۔ ان  
سیرتوں کیلئے پوری سرکشا و بوسٹھا کا انتظام  
کریں ٹرینوں کے اندر۔ بسوں کے اندر سرکشا  
کا اچت پر بندھ کریں۔ ہمارے مانیہ منتری  
جی نے کہا بھی ہے کہ بس کے اندر ہوا ٹرینی  
کے اندر ہوں۔۔۔۔

’اب سبھا از حدیث شری سناقت بیسی‘  
 آپ جنرل پر جا رہے ہیں۔ ٹرینوں پر بولے۔  
 شری جلیل الدین انصاری: ٹرینوں  
 پر ہی بول رہا ہوں۔ اگر سوال اٹھکواؤ گا ہے  
 تو نشیبت طور سے ہم کو اس کے ڈائمنیشن کو  
 بھی دیکھنا چاہیے۔ یہ اسٹوڈنٹ گھنٹا نہیں  
 ہے۔ یہ پہلی گھنٹا ہے لیکن وہ اس طرح کی گھنٹا میں  
 آگے بھی کر سکتے ہیں اس لیے اس خلو کو  
 دھیان میں رکھتے ہوئے ہمیں چوکسی رہنے  
 ہوئے سرکشا تمک کارروائی کرنی چاہیے  
 ہم جائیں گے کہ ہماری سرکار اس دشامیں کو  
 سے قدم اٹھانے جا رہی ہے۔ ہم کو اور دیش کو یہ  
 بتانے کی کوشش کریں۔ ”ختم شد“

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Dr. Biplab Dasgupta.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: No, I am not speaking.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Shri Ram Kapse.

PROF. RAM KAPSE (Maharashtra): Sir, this is not the first railway explosion. Explosions in the Railways started in 1991 and they continued. Such an incident took place first at Kalyan. Then simultaneously, on the same day, more explosions had taken place in the Railways and every time, the then Railway Minister, Shri C.K. Jaffer Sharief, had announced what the Railways would do in these matters. So, I would like to know from the Railway Minister whether enough Care was taken to avoid the incident. What is the proposal with him today?

The second question I would like to put is about the identification of the passengers. Initially, it was declared that

only two persons could be identified. I would like to know whether all the ten persons have been identified in the Mumbai-Calcutta train accident. Even that identification became impossible. I have worked in that Committee.

Further, as far as RDX is concerned, I would like to know from the Home Minister whether any agency, other than the regular police is entrusted with the job of looking into the seriousness of the matter specially when RDX has been used in this incident. I would like to know this thing from the hon. Home Minister.

रेल घंतालथ में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सतपाल महाराज): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं शोकाकुल परिवारों के प्रति अपनी हार्दिक संवेदना और घायलों के प्रति अपनी गहरी सहानुभूति व्यक्त करते हुए सदन के सम्मुख यह कहूंगा कि सब से पहले जो माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि रेलवे में बहुत से स्थान खाली पड़े हुए हैं, जनरल मेनेजर्स के सभी स्थान हमने रेलवे में भर दिये हैं। हादसा रेलवे की किसी त्रुटि के कारण नहीं हुआ है बल्कि टेरेस्ट्रि अटैक है जिसका हमारे पूरे देश को और जनता को तथा हमारी सरकार को डट कर मुकाबला करना है। इसके साथ-साथ यहां पर रेलवे एक्सीडेंट्स की बात कही गई। मैं यह भी सदन के समक्ष रखना चाहूंगा कि जितने भी रेलवे एक्सीडेंट हो रहे हैं, इसमें बहुत कमी आई है। 1985-86 में जो हमारे रेलवे एक्सीडेंट हुए थे पर मिलियन ट्रेन किलोमीटर 1.3 थे। उसमें कमी आई है और 1995-96 में प्वाइंट छः रह गये हैं (व्यवधान) मैं बता रहा हूं (व्यवधान)

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, this is an obnoxious way of covering up....(interruptions)....

श्री सतपाल महाराज: उसके बारे में भी बताना चाहूंगा। हमारे जो एक्सीडेंट हुए थे वह लगभग 717 हुए थे और 1995 में आ कर के हमारे 398 के करीब हो गये। इसमें गिरावट आई है हालांकि ट्रेनें भी हमारी ज्यादा चली हैं और इन एक्सीडेंट्स के अन्दर गिरावट आई है। इसके साथ साथ हम लोग बहुत से काम कर रहे हैं (व्यवधान)

श्री विष्णु कान्त शारसी: 12 व्यक्ति मरे हैं या 10 मरे हैं। यह तो बताइये। अखबार में छपा है कि

12 व्यक्ति मरे हैं और आपका वक्तव्य कहता है कि 10 मरे हैं। सच्चाई क्या है?

श्री सतपाल महाराज: सच्चाई यह है कि 10 व्यक्ति मरे हैं और 29 घायल हुए हैं। यह सच्चाई है।

श्री गुरुदास दासगुप्त: मिसिंग कितने हैं?

श्री सतपाल महाराज: मिसिंग इसमें नहीं हैं। 10 व्यक्ति मरे हैं और 29 घायल हुए हैं। इसके साथ साथ हम लोग बहुत से ऐसे कार्य कर रहे हैं (व्यवधान)

श्री विष्णु कान्त शास्त्री: पहचान कितनों की हुई है?

श्री सतपाल महाराज: इसमें एक व्यक्ति की पहचान हुई है, एक मृतक की पहचान हुई है और 9 व्यक्तियों की जो रेलवे की लिस्ट है उनमें नाम पते हमारे पास हैं। 29 में से 25 को हमने एक्सप्रेसिया दे दिया है और 4 व्यक्ति के इंटेसिव केयर यूनिट होने के कारण उनको एक्सप्रेसिया नहीं दे पाए हैं। यह सूचना मेरे पास है। इसके साथ-साथ जो बहुत सी बातें कही गई उनके संदर्भ में मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि रेलवे प्लेटफार्म पर आदमी आते जाते रहते हैं और उनके साथ जो गेस्ट आते हैं उनको पूरी तरह से रोकना संभव नहीं है फिर भी जैसे कि आफने स्लिपर डॉग्स के बारे में कहा उनके जरिये निश्चित रूप से यह होना आवश्यक है। हम लोगों का सामान तो खोल कर देख नहीं सकते हैं लेकिन फिर भी स्लिपर डॉग्स के जरिये यह पता लगाने का हम लोग प्रयास करेंगे कि लोग आन्डोएक्स या टीएनटी या कोई भी अन्य चीज तो नहीं ले जा रहे हैं। इसके साथ-साथ हम लोग आरपीएफ की तैनाती करेंगे और स्टाफ बढ़ायेंगे। (व्यवधान)

श्री गुरुदास दासगुप्त: आपके पास कितने कुत्ते हैं?

श्री सतपाल महाराज: निश्चित रूप से हमारे जो विजिल है उसको हम कॉस्टेंट रखेंगे। इसमें हमें कर्मचारियों के साथ साथ जनता का सहयोग भी चाहिये ताकि इस विजिल के अन्दर हमारा हाथ बंटा सके। इसके साथ साथ जो अनऑथोराइज्ड इंट्री है, उसके लिए हम प्रयास कर रहे हैं कि हमारे स्लीपर कोवेंज़ के अन्दर जो अनऑथोराइज्ड इंट्री होती है उस पर भी रोक लगाई जाए। यही मैं कहना चाहूंगा। (व्यवधान)

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I a case registered under section 302 or section 307?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सनातन बिसि): 302 का दफा लगाया है या 307 लगाया है?

श्री सतपाल महाराज: यह तो होम मिनिस्टर साहब बतायेंगे।

श्री राघवजी: नार्दन, वेस्टर्न और सेंट्रल रेलवे में जनरल मेनेजर्स के पद खाली हैं, क्यों खाली हैं? वह कब तक भरे जायेंगे?

श्री सतपाल महाराज: यह भर दिये गये हैं, यह मैंने पहले भी बताया है।

8.00 P.M.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, the issue which was to be taken up here for the information of the House and so on was a specific question relating to the bomb explosion. Many hon. Members have, of course, made very far-ranging comments, remarks observations and so on, which they are well within their right to make. I don't grudge them. I cannot reply to all those points, all the security environment of India, the security environment of the region, what is happening in Kashmir, what is happening in Afghanistan, what is happening in Pakistan, this and that. I am concerned at the moment only with this bomb explosion which is the basis on which the matter has been taken up. If you want on discuss all those other matters, there are other ways of doing it. But surely we can have a discussion. I would welcome it, I am deeply grieved. I suppose all of us must be deeply grieved at this terrorist act which has taken place because this is really a very cruel act, a very cowardly act I should say, that unarmed people who are sleeping at night in a passenger coach on a railway train should be massacred in this way. The people who do these things cannot be described merely as criminals. There are some kind of diabolical enemies of humanity, who do not care for anything-innocent men, women and children. If they are brought to book, as I hope some of them will be, they should be most severely punished.

The main point which emerges from the anxiety, shown by the Members here, and that is the main point which I would

like to reply to, is whether it is a fact or not that there was some warning given by some source, which our intelligence agencies have received, about some anticipated terrorist activity in and around Ambala—I believe this appeared in some papers; I have read these things in some Press this morning—and whether, in spite of receiving that warning and information, our agencies have failed to act. This is a very serious matter which we will have to go into thoroughly. The information which I have got at the moment, of course, is that the intelligence reports regarding possible terrorist attacks are shared with the concerned States and the concerned agencies. But in the case of the Ambala incident there was no immediate output available. This requires to be checked. I am also not satisfied with this reply. We must remember the fact that the incident has taken place only early this morning. All our investigators and agencies are still at work trying to find out all the details of the incident, I am not in a position just now to add anything to what I have already said. When more information is available, as I hope it will be, I will certainly be glad to share it with the House. The point is that these agencies who are operating in Punjab, Haryana, Union Territory of Chandigarh and all that, are our agencies. As I explained to you, Sir, there was high level meeting which took place this morning at Chandigarh. They have worked out certain plans, certain measures, certain counter-terrorist measures, which they hope to put into operation immediately. All those measures I cannot possibly divulge here and they should not be divulged. Why should I divulge them? I can only say that they have decided to take some very strict and very urgent measures to counteract these terrorists threats. If all those measures are to be related in this House, there will be nothing left out and the whole world will know what we propose to do. So, I hope the House will bear with me that all those details cannot be and should not

be, in my opinion, divulged here at all. But the fact of the matter is that I have a feeling, and I am sure most of the people in the country have, that our security arrangements and our methods of dealing with all those threats are not yet up to the mark at all.

These terrorists or whoever they are, whether they are linked with Pakistan or not as hon. Member on the other side has said — he linked up everything as a conspiracy of Pakistan...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI VISHNU KANT SHASTRI: Babbar Khalsa has been linked...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: It may be, Shastriji. But I am not in your happy position of having proof and evidence of everything. There are terrorists in this country who have nothing to do with Pakistan.

SHRI VISHNU KANT SHASTRI: I spoke of Babbar Khalsa because you mentioned it...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: These are all guesses. These are all assumptions. It could be Babbar Khalsa or it may not be Babbar Khalsa. ...*(Interruptions)*... You said that we spend a lot of time making love to those people who are trying to attack us and destroy us. I do not agree with this kind of accusation. After all, we fought terrorists for several years in Punjab. My party lost over 100 activists and cadres fighting terrorists.

SHRI VISHNU KANT SHASTRI: My party also lost people, perhaps, it lost more people than your party..

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I am very happy that you were in the forefront. But don't say that we only make love to them and are being soft on them. But I do say that, on the ground, our security precautions, our arrangements, the deployment of our forces, the training and all these things require much more to be done. These are not at all up to the mark. We have been outwitted by these people. Several times, they have been

able to steal a march on us. It is very bad for the morale of the public, apart from anything else. People will have no confidence left if this kind of a thing is allowed to go on. Therefore, we are also determined. Much more stringent and strict measures will have to be taken and this whole plan has to be worked out in detail. We have to coordinate action between all the agencies which are concerned with this. But I cannot immediately, just now, tell you all these details. Even if I want to I cannot tell you because it is still being worked out. This particular explosion is being called RDX. May be, it is very likely. But our report says that it may be RDX or it could be some other explosive substance. The forensic experts are working on it. They have gone from here. They have been sent from here. Forensic scientists working in this particular sphere have been sent there. I do not know about sniffer dogs. I am not very much an expert on sniffer dogs. Hundreds and thousands of railway trains operate everyday in our country. You certainly cannot have sniffer dogs checking the packages and luggage of passengers on every one of these trains. It is not possible. We do not have that kind of resource. But our forensic experts can certainly diagnose what the explosion was due to. We will get that report very soon. RDX is, of course, a very terrible weapon. It is very difficult for anybody to counteract, unless it is detected in time — before the mischief is done. The other suggestions which have been made by many hon. Members about tightening up security and all that, I have made a note of all of them and I will certainly go into all of them. They are welcome suggestions and we will take all necessary steps in order to improve the situation. But I repeat again that I think this is getting more and more complex. There are many people who are participating in these activities, both inside the country and outside the country — on the borders of the country. Therefore, there is nothing to be complacent about. I think

we should be very much more vigilant than we have been in the past. We should take necessary measures in cooperation with the public. Thank you.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA: I had asked about the agency which will investigate this.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: There are so many agencies which are investigating. It is not just one.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Different agencies will take up different responsibilities because the problem is so massive.

The problem is so massive that one agency is not responsible. This is a serious matter, I was listening today—while I had an urgent meeting with somebody. — to the reply and the questions.

The only thing is, I wish that those who had put the questions were here so that the seriousness of the problem could have been reflected.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Madam, they should not have disappeared.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Home Minister came on the request of the House. The importance of the thing is, it is not just a rail problem or an accident there but it is a terrorist activity and that is why the Home Minister came. But I wish the benches were more full than they were. Never mind, they will reach tomorrow if it is reported. With this I adjourn the House till 11 O, clock tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at eleven minutes past eight of the clock till eleven of the clock on Wednesday, the 4th December, 1996.