

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 20th June, 1980 (the 30th Juaisthu, 1902 (Saka).

The House met at eleven of the Clock, Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**Assault on railway passenger^ by RPF personnel**

*181. SHRI AHMAD HOSSAIN
MONDAL: SHRI JAHARLAL
BANERJEE:

SHRI PRASENJIT
BARMAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of an incident which took place at Baruipara on the Eastern Railway on the 14th May, 1980 in which several passengers including a lady travelling by 245 Howrah-Burdwan local train were assaulted by RPF personnel;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action Government have taken against the RPF personnel involved in this incident?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes.

(b) According to the Reports received from the Chief Security officer of the Eastern Railway, on 14-5-1980, four Railway Protection Special Force personnel were returning to Baruipara Camp after performing patrolling duty in between Liluah and Belur by local train No.C-245 Up. At about 8.30 hrs two lady passengers boarded the Second Class com-

partment at Begumpur Railway Station in which the Railway Protection Special Force personnel were also travelling. The saree of one of the lady passengers got entangled with the Arm Band strap of one of the R.P.S.F. personnel and as a result thereof the lady fell down. The passengers seated in the compartment started accusing Railway Protection Special Force men and this resulted in exchange of hot words. On arrival of the train at Baruipara Station some more passengers and vendors rushed to the compartment and a tussle started between Railway Protection Special Force men and passengers. Finding the situation grave, the Railway Protection Special Force men opened fire inside the compartment in self defence and to protect their lives, arms and ammunitions causing injuries to 4 persons including the two ladies. The Railway Protection Special Force men then took shelter in their barracks in which 14 other Railway Protection Special Force men were already present. The mob followed them and started heavy brick batting. The temporary kitchen of the barrack as well as the 1st Class Waiting Hall which was under the control of Railway Protection Special Force were set on fire. The mob also threw burning materials into the barracks through the windows. Finding their lives in danger, the Railway Protection Special Force personnel inside the barrack had to open fire again. The Superintendent of Police and District Magistrate, Hooghly reached spot with force and tackled the situation and took the Railway Protection Special Force personnel to Serampur as a measure of their personal safety. When the Railway Protection Special Force personnel were being taken away by the police in their vans, the mob which was about 5000 to 6000 pelted stones resulting in injuries to Superintendent of Police, Hooghly and others. The Police had to fire tear gas shells to disperse the mob.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Prasenjit Barman.

(c) The Government Railway Police, Howrah, West Bengal have registered a case of crime No. 73 dated 14-5-80 under section 354/307 IPC against 4 Railway Protection Force personnel. These 4 Railway Protection Special Force personnel were arrested by the Government Railway Police. They have been placed under suspension and further investigation is in progress. Stern action will be taken against those found guilty. On a complaint launched by the Station Master, Baruipara, Local Police Station Serampur has registered a separate case No. 16 dated 14-5-80 u/s 147/426/3231337 IPC (rioting, mischief, voluntary causing hurt and causing hurt by an act endangering human life) against the mob. No arrests have so far been made in this case.

SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN: Sir, contradictory press reports were published in the newspapers of this incident. The statement furnished by the Railway Minister here almost corroborates the press statement issued by the railway authorities after this incident took place, but in some newspapers it was reported that one lady passenger was slapped by one RPF man. May I know from the hon. Minister whether this matter was inquired into and the facts about it ascertained?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Sir, this matter is under investigation and the concerned personnel 4 R.P.F. Personnel—have been suspended and arrested, and a case has been registered under section 354 and 307 of the IPC.

SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN: Sir, I want to know whether this unfortunate incident does not give an example of the deteriorating law and order situation in West Bengal. Sir, in West Bengal, under the Left Front regime led by the CPI (M), the police forces there stand completely demoralised. Only two months ago, at Islampur, nine vil-

lages were attacked by the police personnel.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A notice will be necessary for this.

SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN: Sir, it is connected with this question. I want to know whether such indiscipline such vandalism on the part of the police personnel, has had any demoralising effect of the RPF personnel. In this context, may I know from the hon. Railway Minister whether necessary steps have been taken to streamline the RPF organisation in order to see that such indiscipline does not spread amongst the rank and file of the RPF personnel?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Sir, so far as demoralisation is concerned, I have nothing to say. There is no question of demoralisation on the part of the RPF. They have to perform their duties with all responsibility. So far as instructions for prevention are concerned, specific instructions have been given to the Chief Security Officer that whenever the RPF personnel go on escort duty or other duties like patrolling at various places, they must keep it in view that they owe the responsibility to perform their duty in perfect form. Such strict instructions have been issued, Sir.

*182. [*The Questioner (Shri U. R. Krishnan) was absent. For answer Vide cols. V infra 38*].

Setting up of an official agency for recruitment of labour for other countries

*183. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to st^^-

(a) whether Government have taken any decision in regard to the setting up of an official agency for recruitment of labour for other countries; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI p. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) A proposal to set up a Corporation in the public sector for overseas recruitment has been