

RAJYA SABHA

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

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Assault on railway passengers by RPF personnel

*181. SHRI AHMAD HOSSAIN

MONDAL:

SHRI JAHARLAL BANER-
JEE:

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 in-
volved 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 re-
ceived from the Chief Security offi-
cer of the Eastern Railway, on
14-5-1980, four Railway Protection
Special Force personnel were return-
ing to Baruipara Camp after perform-
ing patrolling duty in between Liluah
and Belur by local train No.C-245 Up.
At about 8.30 hrs two lady passen-
gers boarded the Second Class com-

partment at Begumpur Railway
Station in which the Railway Pro-
tection 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 com-
partment 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 passen-
gers and vendors rushed to the com-
partment 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 in-
juries to 4 persons including the two
ladies. The Railway Protection Spe-
cial 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 kit-
chen of the barrack as well as the
1st Class Waiting Hall which was
under the control of Railway Pro-
tection Special Force were set on fire.
The mob also threw burning mate-
rials 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 Spe-
cial Force personnel to Serampur as
a measure of their personal safety.
When the Railway Protection Spe-
cial Force personnel were being
taken away by the police in their
vans, the mob which was about 5000
to 6000 pelted stones resulting in in-
juries 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|323|337 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 state

(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