

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Train Accident at Bachhwara Junction on February 24, 1977

SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Railways to the train accident at Bachhwara Junction near Barauni on the 24th February, 1977, resulting in the death of 32 persons and injury to 52 others.

रेल मंत्री (श्री कमलापति त्रिपाठी) :
मान्यवर, मुझे बड़े दुःख के साथ सूचित करना पड़ता है कि

24-2-1977 को लगभग 20.38 बजे जब मीटर गेज की 9 अप बरौनी-कानपुर एक्सप्रेस गाड़ी पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे के बछवाड़ा स्टेशन से चली तो बड़ी लाइन की एक डाउन मालगाड़ी स्टेशन के अन्दर आयी और डायमंड क्रॉसिंग पर 9 अप एक्सप्रेस के बगल से टकरा गयी।

इस दुर्घटना के फलस्वरूप, 28 व्यक्तियों की मृत्यु हो गयी और अन्य 28 व्यक्ति गंभीर रूप से घायल हुए। दुर्घटना की सूचना मिलते ही समस्तीपुर, बरौनी और सोनपुर से चिकित्सा राहत गाड़ियां तुरन्त भेजी गयी जिनमें रेल अधिकारी और डाक्टर थे। घायल व्यक्तियों को समस्तीपुर और गड़हरा स्थित रेलवे अस्पतालों, बेगूसराय स्थित सिविल अस्पताल, बरौनी स्थित एफ० सी० आई अस्पताल और दरभंगा स्थित सिविल अस्पताल में दाखिल किया गया।

मुख्य चिकित्सा अधिकारी, मुख्य यांत्रिक इंजीनियर, मुख्य परिचालन अधीक्षक तथा मुख्य इंजीनियर (निर्माण) जो महाप्रबन्धक का कार्यभार सम्माल रहे थे, भी तुरन्त दुर्घटना स्थल पर पहुँच गये। सिविल सर्जन, बेगूसराय जिनके साथ पुलिस अधीक्षक और अतिरिक्त जिला मजिस्ट्रेट थे, भी दुर्घटनास्थल को खाना हो गये। रेलवे बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष और सदस्य यातायात हवाई जहाज द्वारा

दुर्घटनास्थल पर गये और अस्पतालों में घायल व्यक्तियों से मिले।

मृत व्यक्तियों के निकटतम संबंधियों और घायल व्यक्तियों को अनुग्रह के रूप में भुगतान की स्वीकृति दी गयी है। क्षतिपूर्ति के दावों का निपटारा करने के लिए एक दावा आयुक्त की नियुक्ति की जा रही है।

पूर्वोत्तर सर्किल, गोरखपुर के रेल संरक्षण के अवर आयुक्त ने कल से इस दुर्घटना की साप्ताहिक जांच शुरू कर दी है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I would like to have the record of what Shri Krishan Kant said before going out. If he has said something derogatory to the Chair, it will be expunged.

श्री श्रीकान्त वर्मा : उपमहोदय महोदय, यह रेल दुर्घटना एक ऐसे समय में हुई है जब कि देश में चुनाव होने जा रहा है और ऐसे समय में कोई भी घटना सामान्य नहीं रह जाती; उस का एक असामान्य महत्व हो जाता है। वैसे भी पिछले दो हफ्तों में देश में कई जगह हिंसा की वारदातें हुई हैं। बिहार 1974 तक हिंसा का एक बहुत बड़ा गढ़ और केन्द्र रहा। 1975 में इमरजेंसी लागू होने के बाद से अभी इमरजेंसी शिथिल होने तक शान्ति रही और रेलों में दक्षता आयी। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस सम्बन्ध में कोई आरम्भिक जांच की गयी है कि यह केवल आकस्मिक घटना थी या मानवीय कमजोरी के कारण हुई या इस के दूसरे और कारण थे और क्या इस की व्यापक रूप में जांच करने के लिए, यह पता करने के लिए कि यह सामान्य घटना थी या इस के पीछे समाजविरोधी तत्वों का हाथ है रेल मंत्री महोदय कोई जांच-आयोग नियुक्त करने की सोच रहे हैं?

श्री कमलापति त्रिपाठी : मान्यवर, दुर्घटना घट गयी, इस का हम सब को बहुत खेद है। जिन लोगों की मृत्यु इस में हुई उन के

परिवार वालों के साथ हमारी गहरी सहानु-
भूति है। जो लोग घायल हो गये हैं उन के
साथ हम री पूरो हमदर्दी है।

अब घटना किस कारण से हुई इस की जांच
हो रही है। सुरक्षा अधिकारी विशेष रूप से
सेफ्टी कमिशनर होते हैं, आयुक्त होते हैं।
वे इस कायदे के मुताबिक जांच करते हैं।
उन्होंने इस में जांच शुरू कर दी है जैसा अभी
स्टे मेट में कहा गया। उन की रिपोर्ट आने
के बाद ही मालूम हो सकेगा कि मुख्य कारण
क्या था जिस की वजह से यह दुर्घटना घटी।
देखने में यह मालूम होता है कि एक मीटरगेज
की गाड़ी आयी और डायमंड क्रॉसिंग के ऊपर
एक दूसरी गाड़ी ब्राडगेज की मालगाड़ी
चली आयी और बगल से दोनों का टकराव हो
गया। लगता तो ऐसा है कि इस में गलती
हुई है ड्राइवरों से जिन्हें ने सिगनल को इग्नोर
किया। जब तक जांच पूरी नहीं हो जाती तब
तक यह कहना उचित नहीं होगा कि घटना किस
कारण हुई और उस के लिये जिम्मेदार
है। उस की जांच शुरू हो गयी है और शीघ्र
ही उस की रिपोर्ट रेलवे मिनिस्ट्री में आ
जायेगी।

SHRI KALYAN ROY (West
Bengal): Though this Calling Atten-
tion Motion is relating to the accident
near Barauni, it is a matter of serious
concern to the people as a whole, but
more so to those people particularly
who travel by train and also to the
employees. I would like to know
whether the Minister is aware that
in spite of their loud proclamation
that the law and order situation has
improved after the emergency, since
the last one year rail travel has
become a source of fear. Firstly, it is
because the number of dacoities and
pilferages has increased and lately,
the number of accidents has sharply
increased leading to the death of
many people. I think during the last
one-and-a-half years or so nearly 150
people has died only in railway acci-
dents and about six hundred to eight

hundred people have been seriously
injured. Now he has said that he is
expecting the report and all that.
Would he be able to state what action
the Government will take after the
receipt of the report? Can he cite a
single instance in which a high offi-
cer like the Divisional Superintendent
or an officer of a higher rank has
been ever punished since the emer-
gency was proclaimed in connection
with any of the accidents in West
Bengal, Bihar and other parts of the
country?

Secondly, is the honourable Minister
aware that since the last two or three
months, particularly after the election
date has been announced, a large
number of arbitrary transfers are
taking place in Dhanbad, Moghal
Sarai and Asansol areas? Why are
these transfers taking place which
lead to uncertainty among the loco
staff and serious resentment among
the two million railway employees?
There is resentment amongst the
railway employees regarding the large
number of dismissal cases which are
still pending since the strike and
which have created uncertainty and
fear among the employees. How long
can he run the Railways on the basis
of fear and threat and how can he
expect the co-operation of the em-
ployees? It will be possible if he acts
only now and if he takes back all
those people who have been illegally
retrenched and dismissed and who
have been subjected to ruthless ex-
ploitation by the Railway Board and
other senior officials. Unless this
situation is changed and serious action
is taken against the senior officers
who are responsible for accidents. I
do not think the results of the Rail-
ways will ever improve.

श्री कमलापति त्रिपाठी : मान्यवर,
यह दो अलग अलग सवाल हैं। रेलवे
में जो क्राइम्स होते हैं उन का संबंध ला ऐंड
आर्डर से है और दूसरा एक्सीडेंट्स
के बारे में है। तो एक्सीडेंट्स तो एक्सीडेंट्स

[श्री कमलापति त्रिपाठी]

हैं। किसी न किसी की गलती से वह हो जाते हैं। फिर उन की जांच की जाती है बाकायदा कानून के मुताबिक और रिपोर्ट आने पर जिन की जिम्मेदारी समझी जाती है उन के खिलाफ कार्यवाही की जाती है। ऐक्सीडेंट्स में जिन को चोट लगती है उन को हर्जाना दिया जाता है, जिन की मृत्यु हो जाती है उन को मुआवजा दिया जाता है। जहां तक ला ऐंड आर्डर की बात है रेलवे में, सरकार खुद उस के लिये बहुत चिन्तित है और बंगाल, बिहार और उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकारों से बराबर हमारा संबंध रहा है और इस बारे में बातचीत हुई है और पिछड़े सालों की अपेक्षा रेलवे में होने वाले क्राइम्स की सेचुरेशन इंप्रूव है क्योंकि इन सरकारों ने हमारी बहुत मदद की है। और जो रेलवे सुरक्षा दल है वह इस विषय में काफी सक्रिय हो गया है और मैं समझता हूं कि क्राइम्स को काफी दूर तक कंट्रोल कर लिया गया है और उन को आगे भी हम कंट्रोल करते रहेंगे।

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Sir, on a point of order. I made a specific allegation that senior officers were responsible and I asked him whether he could quote a single instance where a high official has ever been punished in the course of the last two years for such disastrous accidents and I also asked whether the figure of 32 is exact or whether it is on the lower side. He has to answer these points.

SHRI KAMLAPATI TRIPATHI: No, I am informed that one of the person injured has also expired to-day morning and I have been informed just now. Rest of the figures are correct.

So far as punishment is concerned, the inquiry will take place and whoever is responsible for it will be punished.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Tripathiji, the answer is 'No.' Only victimisation is taking place amongst the ordinary railway workmen and not a single senior officer has been punished, but they are sterilising the railway employees.

SHRI KAMLAPATI TRIPATHI: Action is always taken against the person who is responsible.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Janardhana Reddy, you wanted to put some questions and you can ask now.

SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Just now my friend was telling that the the number of accidents were more. Unfortunately we have gone through three accidents recently. As a matter of fact, the performance of our Railways is quite good, and it has won the appreciation of the public also. But in the recent times there were three accidents, two in Andhra and one has occurred near Barauni. May I know from the Minister whether the accidents that took place in Andhra—one occurred recently with the Grant Trunk Express that goes to Madras was due to the fact that the tracks we are having are unable to bear the super-fast trains, at the speed at which the trains are now moving? Has he found out from the technical people whether the tracks are able to bear the speed of super-fast trains particularly the Grand Trunk Express, which derailed and ran nearly fifty yards on the ground? Fortunately, there was no major disaster. As a matter of fact, one of our Members, Mr. Papi Reddy, was travelling in that train. He sustained minor injuries also. Anyway, these three accidents have occurred, and...

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Is it an improvement?

SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY: It is really an improvement.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kalyan Roy, you had your say and you interrupted the Minister and again you want to interrupt another Member.

SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY: I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he will go through these points, whether our tracks should be strengthened, or already our tracks have enough strength to meet the needs of these super-fast trains.

SHRI KAMLAPATI TRIPATHI: Constant vigilance is kept on the tracks, and I do not think that any accident which took place recently has anything to do with tracks, etc. One accident in Andhra occurred; and that was due to the cyclone in Andhra. Another has taken place just now. Enquiries are being made, and this point is also being looked into whether the tracks have any defect. I think that after we receive the report, proper action will be taken in this matter.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION REGARDING CONTINUANCE IN FORCE OF THE PROCLAMATION ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENT IN RELATION TO THE STATE OF NAGALAND

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDI): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation issued by the President on the 22nd March 1975 under article 356 of the Constitution, in relation to the State of Nagaland, for a further period of one year with effect from the 26th March, 1977."

Sir, as the House is fully aware, the state of Nagaland came under President's rule with effect from 22nd March 1975, the date on which the Proclamation under article 356 of the

Constitution was issued by the President. Since then, this House has approved three extensions. The last time the Resolution of further continuance in force of the Proclamation in Nagaland was passed by this House was on 17th August, 1976. The Proclamation will thus be in force up to and inclusive of 25th March 1977.

As the hon. Members are already aware, the most significant development in the State since the imposition of President's rule was the peace talks held by the Government of Nagaland on behalf of the Government of India with the representatives of the underground Nagas to bring about an end to the strife in Nagaland. The peace talks culminated in the Shillong Agreement which was signed on 11th November 1975. Complete peace which was there in accordance with this Agreement continues to prevail. During the President's rule, the State Government have taken a number of administrative measures to effectively stabilise the improving law and order situation. The administrative and development machinery in the State has been working with full dedication to bring about progress in various directions and they have been trying to serve the people to the best of their ability. There has been an all round development as can be seen from the brief report which has already been circulated to the hon. Members. The atmosphere of peace and tranquillity which has been brought about has generated new enthusiasm and confidence among the people of the State who earnestly desire that the present trend of development should not be halted or reversed on the eve of elections. It is very important that peace which has been achieved is further consolidated and single-minded efforts continue to be made for the administration development and welfare of the people of the State. The Governor's view, therefore, is that the President's rule in Nagaland should be continued for