

section (4) of section 18 of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Certified Annual Accounts of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 1969-70, together with the Audit Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3499/72.]

I. THE INDIAN TELEGRAPH (SECOND AMENDMENT) RULES, 1972.

II. THE INDIAN TELEGRAPH (SIXTH AMENDMENT) RULES, 1972.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Department of Communications (Posts and Telegraphs Board):—

(i) Notification G.S.R. No. 811, dated the 16th June, 1972, publishing the Indian Telegraph (Second Amendment) Rules, 1972.

(ii) Notification G.S.R. No. 329 (E), dated the 4th July, 1972, publishing the Indian Telegraph (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 1972. [Placed in library. See No. IT-3476/72 for (i) and (ii).]

AUDITED ACCOUNTS (1968-69 AND 1970-71) OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTROLLING THE SUPERVISING EXPERIMENTS ON ANIMALS, BOMBAY

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the Audited Accounts of the Committee for the purpose of Controlling the Supervising Experiments on Animals, Bombay, for the years 1968-69 and 1970-71. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3443/72]

ANNUAL REPORT ((1970-71) OF THE TECHNICAL TEACHERS' TRAINING INSTITUTE (WESTERN REGION) BHOPAL

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (PROF. D. P. YADAV): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Annual Report of the Technical Teachers' Training Institute (Western Region), Bhopal, for the year 1970-71. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3444/72.]

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

COLLUSION BETWEEN TRIVANDRUM-MADRAS EXPRESS AND MADRAS-TRIVANDRUM PASSENGER AT KADAYANALLUR ON VIRUDHUNAGAR-TENKASI SECTION OF SOUTHERN RAILWAY

SHRI HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD (Kerala): Mr. Chairman I call the attention of the Minister of Railways to the collision between Trivandrum-Madras Express and Madras-Trivandrum Passenger at Kadayanallur on the Virudhunagar-Tenkasi section of Southern Railway on August 16, 1972, and the damage caused thereby.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair].

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, on 16-8-1972, at about 01-50 hours, train No. 109 Down Madras-Trivandrum passenger was received on Road No. 1 of Kadayanallur station situated on the Virudhunagar-Tenkasi metre gauge single line section of the Southern Railway. Shortly thereafter, at about 01-55 hours, train No. 138 Up Trivandrum-Madras Express entered the same line from the opposite direction and collided with the passenger train. As a

result, both the train engines derailed. The first three coaches of 109 Down passenger and first four coaches of 138 Up Express also derailed.

In this accident, 10 persons are reported to have been injured, of whom 6 (aU railway employees) sustained grievous injuries and four simple injuries. Another 45 persons sustained trivial injuries and were allowed to continue their journey after first aid.

Ex gratia payment of Rs. 200/- each has been made to seven of the injured persons.

The cost of damage to railway property has been estimated at approximately Rs. 2,05,000.

Immediately on receipt of information the Senior Deputy General Manager of Southern Railway alongwith Heads of Departments proceeded to the site by air.

The Driver of train No. 138 Up Trivandrum-Madras Express has been placed under suspension.

The Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety, Bangalore commenced his statutory inquiry into this accident on the 18th instant.

SHRI HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD:
Sir, the Government . . .

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL (Gujrat) : Sir, rise on a point of order. It has been the normal practice in this House for years that whenever there is a railway accident, the Minister makes a statement *suo mom* without encroaching upon our right to raise a calling attention motion. Several calling attention notices are pending. My own calling attention notice about the disappearance of mercury of a very large value from the Atomic Energy Establishment has not been admitted because there is no time or there is no day. But how is it that the

time of the House is taken up by this calling attention notice when it would normally be the business of the Minister to make a statement *suo motu*?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is why the calling attention motion was admitted and the Minister is replying.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : No, Sir. We have been deprived of our right of giving a calling attention notice today because of this irregular procedure. The Minister has to make a statement *suo motu* according to the practice that has been prevailing in this House for many years and our right of giving a calling attention notice should be preserved and kept in addition to the Railway Minister's statement.

SHRI T. N. SINGH (Uttar Pradesh) : What is your reaction to the point raised by the hon'ble member?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Because there was no statement made *suo motu* we have this calling attention.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL:
You should direct the Government to make the statement and not deprive us of our right.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : Yesterday the Home Minister said that matter is under investigation and, therefore, nobody should be suspended. Today they have suspended somebody when the matter is still under investigation. Therefore, Sir, there is double standard. I am not saying whether it is right or wrong. Yesterday we demanded suspension of the police officials but it was rejected on the ground by Mr. K. C. Pant that since the matter was under investigation there should be no suspension. Sir, you did not even say anything on that. It seems the Ministers can suspend whenever they like and they

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cannot suspend when they do not like. Sir, everything passes off in this House so long as you are quiet and calm.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : When the Minister says that he has taken action do you want me to say that he should not have taken action?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Yes, Sir. Parliamentary democracy demands that when double standards are indulged in you should say at least that two standards are being followed.

SHRI HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD: Sir, does the Government consider this incident only as an accident or does it consider this due to the rash and negligent act of some of the employee of the railways ? Then it was reported in the papers that people who had been stranded there were not given the facility of proceeding on their journey. Also even water was not made available to the women and children and old people who were stranded on the railway stations for hours together. May I know if the Government have noticed this ? What action have they taken against the railway authorities ?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : Any accident on railways is viewed with concern. So far as this particular accident is concerned the matter is under enquiry. The Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety is looking into this matter. Because one train was stationary and the other train was coming, it is *prima facie* established that the driver of the incoming train did not notice the signal and that is why the collision took place. On that basis we have suspended the driver of the incoming train. With regard to the passenger who were stranded...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Yesterday we said that the police made lathi charges and *prima facie* the allegation I

was established. Women were lathi charged. The case was *prima facie* established but nobody was suspended.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: Sir, as I have already stated, the accident took place at about 01.55 hours and it took about seven hours to clear the track. Through traffic was restored by 8-30 hours on the same day. The passengers who were stranded in the train were given all facilities with regard to food and water, and those who were injured were given medical facilities.

SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA (Mysore) : Sir, according to the newspapers this accident took place at about 0152 hours at the single-track station of Kadayanallur. Sir, I would like to know whether the Minister has any information or he is satisfied that there was no foul-play or is there any indication to show that it may be due to negligence or defect in the equipment.

My second question is this. It has been reported that adequate medical facilities were not made available and it took considerable time before medical facilities were made available. I would like the Minister to enlighten us on that.

Thirdly Sir, so far as the people, according to the newspapers reports, admitted to the hospital with serious injuries are concerned, may I know how many of them are still in hospital and how many have been discharged, and in addition Rs. 200 what additional payment has been made to the seriously injured people?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: Sir, it would be rather too early to say whether any foul play was there because the Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety is looking into the

whole matter and he will look into this aspect also. With regard to the other question of the hon. Member, all the injured people—10 persons were injured, of whom six are Railway employees—were given first-aid at the very station and later on the injured people were removed to the hospital where all facilities were given to them. Even an *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 200 to each of the persons who were having grievous injuries was given on the spot, so, it is not correct to say that no proper treatment was given to the injured people.

SHRI V. V. SWAMINATHAN (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, the Trivendrum-Madras Express does not stop at Kadayanallur; it is a non-stop station for this train. The accident was a head-on collision like a cat and a dog fighting each other. Unless the line is cleared, there is no opportunity for the train to have a head-on collision with any train which is already there. The Minister has said that the driver has been suspended. Now, unless the Express train had been allowed to go on the line where the Madras-Trivandrum Passenger was already there, there was no possibility for a head-on collision. I want to know whether any action was taken against any employee for having allowed the Express train to go on the line where the passenger train was already standing.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: Sir, the very fact that a head-on collision has taken place shows that an accident has taken place. Sir, Kadya-nallur is a two-line station—if my hon. friend understands the technical terms—and it is interlocked to Standard I with Multiple Aspect Upper Quadrant signals. There is a single arm Home signal and point Indicators. Sand humps and Starters are not provided here. The interlocking at the station is

such that the far-end points cannot be set for the other line while receiving a train. What has happened is, the train was coming on the same track and the head-on collision took place.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra) : Sir, may I know from the Minister when he first received information about the accident? I am one with Mr. Dahyabhai Patel that the statement should have been made by the Minister *suo motu*. But apart from this, I charge the Railway Board with callousness because they have failed to inform Mr. Qureshi or Mr. Pai about the accident. The Ministers have not made a statement *suo motu* because they were not informed properly. I want to know whether the Minister is going to take any action against the officers of the Railway Board for keeping the Ministers in the dark.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: Sir, *suo motu* statements have been made in both Houses of Parliament, but they are made only when there is a serious accident; a serious accident, according to the Railways, is an accident where the lives of people are involved, where some death takes place. Accidents where there are only injuries to the persons are not classified as serious and no statements have been made so far on non-serious accidents or minor accidents. With regard to the other part of the question, as soon as information is conveyed to the Railway Board, it is the duty of the officers concerned to convey the information to the Ministers concerned. In this particular case, the information was delayed by about an hour or two. It was conveyed later on to the Ministers concerned.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : I wanted to know what action he was going to take against the Railway Board officers-

rShri A. G. Kulkarni]

who did not inform him immediately about the accident. Sir, I did not want to mention it, but I was the first man to inform Mr. Qureshi that such an accident had taken place, and that it was on the radio at 6 O'clock and I asked him if he was going to make any statement. He said, "I do not know about it." I met him at lunch here. . .

SHRI KRISHAN KANT (Haryana) : This should not have been mentioned.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I am mentioning it because the Minister is ill-informed. That is what I wanted to mention. For that purpose I demand that action be taken against the Railway Board officials. It is not that Kulkarni is responsible for it. The Minister must reply. What was the fact ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has already replied.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: No, no, he has not replied to this point.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The honourable Minister has stated that he did not make a statement here because he thought it was not a serious accident. I do not know what the definition of "seriousness" is. I do not know about it...

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: What is the yardstick ? How many deaths ?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: But one thing is quite clear; these officers do not take him seriously. That is quite clear: otherwise, he has been told of this accident. That part I understand. But I do not understand that the accident is not serious. Therefore, kindly explain to us as to

why either you are not taken seriously or why you do not take that accident seriously. I do not know it. You should at least tell us this.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: There is no question of anybody being non-serious. As and when the information comes, it is the duty of the Railway Board officials to convey it to the Ministers concerned. The information came, and, as my friend has rightly pointed out he conveyed the information first to me. He heard it on the radio and in a private conversation he told me about it. Now that he has referred to it, he told me that six people were killed in this accident. I was a little worried about it and I rang up my office and they told me that nobody was killed in the accident. They said they would give the information later on. It is true that the information was delayed by an hour or two. But later on the information was given to me. There is no question of anybody not taking the Minister seriously.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN (Kerala) : I have to join the criticism that has been made by sections of the House that the honourable Minister has not been able to give a statement on his own. I just invite attention to the next item on the agenda : "Statement by the Minister" regarding dacoity in train No. 55 Up Buxar-Delhi Express. The matter happened on the 20th. It was reported in the 21st newspapers and the Minister has come with a statement on the 23rd. I do not want to belittle anybody, nor do I want to praise anybody. I must say at this stage that the sense of urgency to the task which Mr. Hanumanthaiya had sincerely brought to bear on the railway problems appears to be singularly significantly absent today and I accuse the honourable Minister in

charge of railways of bringing in a certain amount of lethargy in the task that he has to discharge on this matter. You must bring to the honourable Minister's attention the fact which the press reports have already brought in this regard that more than a thousand passengers were there in these two long distance trains together and for about 12 hours, till about 10 O'clock next day there were no facilities in regard to food or even of drinking water. And I submit that there has been callous neglect in this regard on the part of the Divisional Officers at Madurai. Secondly in regard to compensation claims it is rather extraordinary that many of the claims even in regard to the disaster that happened to the Bangalore-Cochin Express called the Island Express about two years back are still pending on account of procedural delays. I particularly bring to the notice of the honorable Minister the necessity of settling compensation claims in regard to the injured in this railway disaster as early as possible.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : The passengers who were travelling in these two trains had to face a little bit of inconvenience because of this sad accident. But as I have already said through communications were restored about 8.30 that is about 7 hours after the accident took place, and all facilities were provided to the passengers there; special food was sent from different stations to see that these people were not inconvenienced. And with regard to compensation, as I have already said, exgratia payment of Rs. 200 each to 7 of the injured persons was made on the spot. With regard to certain outstanding payments to some people injured in some previous accident, I will certainly see if there has been some delay, and I will see that there is no more delay in such payments, and the payments are made expeditiously.

SHRI A. K. RAFAYE (Tamil Nadu) : The Minister of Railway announced *ex-gratia* payment to the injured persons. I think it is not enough. Those persons who have become invalids due to the injuries sustained in the accident should be given a substantial amount for their sustenance.

Therefore, Sir, the Railway Minister should consider the cases sympathetically.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : Sir, I have already stated that most of these are railway employees. If anybody becomes incapacitated, the railways will not leave them and they will not be left in the lurch. We will look after them.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Only one question, Sir. As the honourable Member has said, the Minister has not given the information. The very fact that the All-India Radio was efficient enough to broadcast at six O'clock in the morning about this accident and the honourable Minister did not know till two O'clock shows that the officials in the Railway Board do not take the accident seriously. I want to know whether any action has been taken by the honourable Minister against those officials. For about eight hours nothing was known to them. What has been done ?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : Sir, I did not hear the news bulletin I myself. This was conveyed to me by Shri Kulkami. Whatever was heard by him is not proved by facts because he said that six people were killed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You I have to lay a statement now.