

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन् एक मिनट हम चाहते हैं ।

श्री उपसभापति : वाद में ।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर (राजस्थान) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय . . .

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव (बिहार) :
श्रीमन्, भूपेश गुप्ता ने एक गलत लांछन जनसंघ पर लगाया । जनसंघ का सत्याग्रह देश के विचारों में बटवारे का नहीं है बल्कि जनसंघ का सत्याग्रह जो पार्लियामेंट के सदस्यों ने शपथ ली थी कि हम बंगला देश को सहायता देंगे, बंगला देश को मान्यता देंगे, बंगला देश में हो रहे नरसंहार को रोकेंगे उसी शपथ की सरकार को याद दिलाने के लिये है कि सरकार उस काम को जल्दी से जल्दी करे । देश में एकता के लिए, देश की सुरक्षा के लिये, देश की शान्ति के लिये और बंगला देश में हो रहे नरसंहार को रोकने के लिए, सरकार को कर्तव्यों की याद दिलाने के लिये ही सत्याग्रह चल रहा है । इसलिये सत्याग्रह पर किसी प्रकार की आंच लाना या किसी प्रकार का लांछन लगाना मैं समझता हूँ कि उनकी राजनीतिक विचारधारा का चिन्ह है ।

श्री उपसभापति : ठीक है, आप बैठिये ।

**STATEMENT BY MINISTER RE
COLLISION BETWEEN
SUBURBAN TRAIN NOS. K-62
DOWN AND P-389 DOWN AT
ULTADANGA ROAD STATION**

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN
THE

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI
MOHD. SHAFI

QURESHI): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is with profound regret and sorrow that I have to inform the House that at about 20.30 hours on 31-7-71 while Suburban Train No. P-898 Down was standing on the down Suburban line of Ultadanga Road station on the Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway, Suburban Train No. K-02 Down came from behind and collided in the rear of P-398 Down. As a result, the Front Coach of K-(i)2 Down partly telescoped into the rear TLR (third class-cum-luggage and brake van) of P-398 Down. In this accident 7 persons were killed on the spot, 8 persons were grievously injured and 12 sustained simple injuries. One of the grievously injured persons subsequently expired in the hospital. In addition 39 Persons received trivial

injuries like minor abrasions and scratches who were discharged from the hospital after being rendered first aid.

Immediately on receipt of the information of the accident Railway Doctors from Sealdah rushed to the site of the accident. The General Manager and the Chief Operating Superintendent, Eastern Railway accompanied by other senior Railway officers also proceeded to the site of the accident. Member (Transportation), Railway Board went by air to Calcutta and inspected the site of the accident and visited the injured in the hospitals.

Ex-gratia payment has been made to the next of kin of the dead and to the injured.

The Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety, Calcutta is holding an inquiry into this accident.

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) : श्रीमन्, हमको आपने बैठा दिया । एक इम्पार्टेन्ट प्वाइन्ट हमें उठाना था ।

श्री उपसभापति : यह सबजेक्ट मैटर हो जाने दीजिए ।

श्री राजनारायण : नहीं तो जगदम्बी प्रसाद जी यादव जी की तरह खड़े होकर कह दें ।

श्री उपसभापति : आप तो वैसे कहते ही हैं ।

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal) : Sir, the statement says that a train was standing stationary in the Ultadanga Road station and another train which is supposed to be an electric train rammed into the standing train and caused the damage. May I know from the hon'ble Minister whether any preliminary investigation has been made particularly in regard to the responsibility of the railway staff who are really responsible for this kind of extraordinary accident? He has said that an investigation has been ordered into the accident, and (that will take a long time. But before that, may I know whether his department has made any preliminary investigation into the matter; if so, what is the result of that preliminary investigation?

My second point which I would like to say is this. Today's papers carry a news that after the accident about 20-30 trains have been stopped thereby causing inconvenience to a large number of passengers coming to and going away from Calcutta because that is the only communication which is being taken advantage of by a large number of people? What is the reason of immediate suspension of a large number of trains, about 20-30? Will the hon'ble Minister say if the report is correct? Would the Government issue orders

[Shri Cliitta Basu] so that train running is not stopped because it is creating lot of harassment to the people.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: With regard to the first question, the Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety is holding an enquiry into this accident. So it will not be proper for me to prejudge the issue at this stage. With regard to the other question that a large number of trains have been detained in this particular area I have no information available with me at this time. I will collect the information and give it either to the hon'ble Member or pass it on to the House.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I do not want the Ministry or the Minister to escape the responsibility of this accident. Is it not a fact, Sir, that in the Madras area sometime in October last the Mangalore-Cochin Mail telescoped? Then a suggestion was put forth to the Government, especially to the Railway Ministry, how to solve this problem of accidents. What action has been taken by the Ministry? Had the suggestion submitted by an hon'ble Member been implemented, this type of accident would not have occurred. This is not the first accident. That the eastern sector is not in a normal condition has been accepted by the Minister in the Budget Session. Because the poor third class passengers are being killed, therefore, it is not the responsibility of the Railway Ministry. The suggestion put forth was that instead of a tiny red tail lamp attached to the rear bogey, why not the curvature of the last van be lit brighter by bright red light so that it may catch the eyes of the driver who is coming towards the stationary train so that he would be alert and stop the train in advance? It is a matter of a hundred rupees. Why was it not done? What was the reason for delaying the implementation of this suggestion? Had it been done, the country would have been saved of so many killings in the last three accidents. One was on the 17th of the last month. Another was on the 24th of the last month and this is the third one. Similarly, what action has the Railway Minister, not the Railway Board, taken on the suggestion made somewhere in November by an hon'ble Member of this House?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: The hon'ble Member is correct when he says that there were similar accidents earlier also. In both these accidents, they were due to the failure of human element, whether the signals were completely ignored by the driver or he would not stop at the signal. Naturally, when he ignores the signal the result was that he rammed into the standing train which was standing on the track itself.

Sir, we are taking all precautions to see that the number of accidents comes down. I would like to give some figures. As compared to 1961 when the total number of accidents was 1,295, it has come down to 840.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN. What about his suggestion regarding the red light on the rear compartment?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: This is usually done . . .

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: Not done.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: It is a very good suggestion that we must have bigger red lights.

श्री निरंजन वर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश) : श्रीमान्, ऐसा मालूम पड़ता है कि बंगला देश के ऊपर विपत्ति पर विपत्ति आ रही है क्योंकि पहले भी वहां पर रेल दुर्घटना हो चुकी है। यह भी आपने बतलाया कि अभी इन्वेस्टीगेशन जारी है और इस समय यह कहना बड़ा मुश्किल है कि वास्तव में घटना किस प्रकार से हुई। लेकिन मैं आप से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि बंगाल में नक्सलवादियों के भूकम्प के कारण एक पुलिस अधिकारी भी पकड़ा गया था 8 दिन पहले, तो वर्तमान केस में या इस प्रकार के इन्वेस्टीगेशन में आपको यह मालूम नहीं हुआ कि रेलवे डिपार्टमेंट में कर्तव्य अवहेलना करने वाला ऐसा कोई तत्व है जिसे की उदासीनता के कारण और अपना कर्तव्य न कर सकने के कारण यह बड़ी दुर्घटना हुई है? अगर अभी आपको इन्वेस्टीगेशन में इस तरह की सूचना नहीं मिली है, तो क्या आप आगे इस बात की जांच करेंगे कि बाहर के तत्वों की जांच के साथ साथ रेलवे विभाग में भी ऐसे तत्व हैं, इस तरह के कोई आदमी है, जिनके कारण इस प्रकार की घटनाएं हो सकती हैं?

شری محمد شفیع قریشی : اگر انویسٹیشن کے دوران کوئی ایسی بات ہمارے نوٹس میں آئی تو ضرور مہیا کے سامنے رکھینگے۔

†[श्री मोहम्मद शफी कुरेशी: अगर इन्वेस्टीगेशन के दौरान कोई ऐसी बात हमारे नोट्स में आई तो जरूर सभा के सामने रखेंगे।]

† [] Hindi transliteration.

SHRI A. D. MANI (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned that *ex gratia* payment has been made to the families of the victims of this accident, I know, sir, that this *ex gratia* payment is only Rs. 500. I would like to ask the Minister whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that in the case of the widow of the pilot who lost his life in the HF aircraft accident the other day in Bangalore, as much as Rs. 1,50,000 was paid as compensation. May I ask the Minister whether, in view of the fact that these accidents are occurring almost constantly on the railways, penal compensation would be paid to the families of the victims? And how is the compensation amount decided? I would like the Minister to throw some light on the principles governing the payment of compensation to the families of the victims.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: Sir, the *ex gratia* payment is quite apart from, and without prejudice to, the compensation claims payable under section 82 of the Indian Railways Act which can be an amount up to a maximum of Rs. 20,000 in respect of any one person who has been injured or who died as a result of an accident to a train carrying passengers. An *ex gratia* payment of Rs. 500 is immediately given to the family of the dead for cremation purposes. It varies from Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 in the case of those who sustain injuries.

DR. (MRS.) MANGALDEVI TALWAR (Rajasthan): Sir, it has been stated that similar accidents due to human failure have taken place before, not very far off in the past, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what deterrent punishment has been given to those who have been the cause of this mass murder and who repeat this kind of neglect in duty. It is really human failure which is the cause of an accident like this when a train is standing and another comes and rams into the standing train. Sir, this is a very serious matter. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what deterrent punishment the department has given in the past and what they are contemplating to give this time.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: Sir, I do not have this information at present as to what punishment has been given to the erring staff in previous accidents. I will collect it and lay it on the Table of the House. With regard to the question what punishment will be meted out to the people involved in this recent accident, as I said, the Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety is looking into the matter and after he gives his report, it will be decided.

1 P.M.

REFERENCE TO ALLEGED THREAT HELD OUT TO THE DOCTORS FROM RAJASTHAN IN EVACUEE CAMPS

श्री जगदाश प्रसाद माथुर (राजस्थान) :

श्रीमान्, पिछले दिनों में जो बंगाल में स्थिति पैदा हुई है उसके कारण से भारी मात्रा में बंगला देश से शरणार्थी आये । उनकी सहायता के लिये संसद ने भी देश के नागरिकों से अपील की और प्रधान मंत्री ने भी अपील की । सब की अपील के कारण खास तौर से जो वहाँ बीमारी फैलने लग गई थी उसके कारण से हमारे राजस्थान प्रान्त की सरकार ने यह तय किया कि एक चार सौ बेड्स का अस्पताल वहाँ भेजा जाय । इस प्रकार उसने एक मोबाइल अस्पताल वहाँ पर भेज दिया है और वह वहाँ काम करने लगा । लेकिन जो स्थिति उस अस्पताल की हुई है उससे ऐसा लगता है कि देश के बाकी नागरिकों को इस बात की चिंता होगी कि हम उनकी सहायता के लिये जाय या न जाय या उनकी किस प्रकार से मदद करें । पिछले दिनों वहाँ पर इस प्रकार की स्थिति पैदा हुई कि वहाँ पर जो काम करने वाले डाक्टर थे उन पर बहुत से लोगों ने आक्रमण किया और अब उनको नोटिस दे दिया गया है कि वे सात दिन के अन्दर अन्दर या तो अस्पताल को उठा कर राजस्थान ले जाओ वरना जितने लोग अस्पताल में काम कर रहे हैं उनको मार दिया जायगा । केवल यह धमकी ही नहीं थी बल्कि जो कलाकार उनके साथ गया था उस कलाकार को उन्होंने पीटा । उसके बाद वहाँ पर डाक्टर को पीटा गया । वेस्ट बंगाल के इस्लामपुर नाम के एक कस्बे में से जो रेस्ट हाउस है उसी में उन्होंने अपना कैम्प लगा रखा था । उस रेस्ट हाउस पर बाकायदा हमला किया गया और वहाँ पर रहने वाले डाक्टरों को मारा गया । फिर 7 डाक्टर और काम करने वाले कुछ कर्मचारी पश्चिम बंगाल से चल कर राजस्थान पहुँचे और उन्होंने राजस्थान सरकार से इस प्रकार की रिपोर्ट दी कि हम शरणार्थियों की सेवा करना चाहते हैं, लेकिन सेवा करने की आज हमारी स्थिति