

RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 19th May, 1969/ie 29th
Vaisakha, 1891 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, THE
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

DETENTION OF TRAINS AND DAMAGE TO RAILWAY PROPERTY AT ALIPURDUAR IN WEST BENGAL

2. SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Will the
Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that trains were
stopped by some miscreants for 24 hours or
more at Alipurduar in West Bengal recently:

(b) whether it is also a fact that railway
properties were destroyed and damaged: and

(c) if so, what is the amount of loss
suffered?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI
ROHANLAL CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes,
Madam. All train movements in and out of
Alipurduar Junction on the Northeast Frontier
Railway in West Bengal were brought to a
standstill from about 14.00 hours on 15-5-69
to about 0700 hours on 17-5-69 by unruly
crowds agitating in connection with the death
of a student leader.

(b) and (c) Some window panes in the
station building were broken.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: The loss due
to dislocation of traffic is estimated at about
Rs. 4 lakhs.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: May I know,
Madam, from the hon'ble Railway Minister
whether, when the railway authorities asked
these people to leave the railway track,

these people said that unless some Minister
from the West Bengal Government came they
would not get up from the railway track and
go away? Is it also a fact that they went to the
loco shed and dropped the fire of 13-14
engines which were under steam? May I
know from the hon'ble Minister what steps
they have taken to safeguard this lifeline
which supplies our troops with armaments
and food? This is a very important line for the
N.E.F.A. border. May I know the
arrangements they have got with the
Government of West Bengal 'to safeguard the
railway property as also this lifeline: whether
they had discussions with the West Bengal
Government in this respect earlier or not?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Actually
Madam, as the House knows, this incident of
the death of Badal Dutta had nothing to do
with the Railways, but we became a victim of
that fury. So far as law and order movement
of trains and protection of Railways is
concerned, it is the responsibility of the State
Government. The movement of military and
other personnel is also secured by the State
Government; to that extent the responsibility
is theirs. We shall approach the State
Government to ensure that the Railways are
not unnecessarily made victim to anybody's
fury.

SHRI A. C. GILBERT: Madam, the
miscreants' activities are on the increase and
the Government has ye't not been able to
suppress them. The employees while on duty
are nervous and all the time feel insecure. If
they do not go on duty, they are harassed,
suspended and charge-sheeted and punished.
The Hon'ble Minister should call for such
cases and review them.

On May 16-17 night at Fatehgarh station at
12 in the night, a man with his face covered,
but of course he could see, entered the
combined Guards' and Drivers' Running
Room where a few guards and drivers were
having rest. This man at the point of a
revolver asked one driver, Mr. Daya Ram of
Tundla, who took the train to Fategarh to part
with all his cash. He took away all his cash,
say, about Rs. 80, and went away.

Then, Madam, only yesterday, on the 18th,
a guard was bringing a train, 175 UP from
luhi to Tundla. While he was in

between Maitha and Roora, at 22.30 hrs. some miscreant fired at him, but he was lucky and the bullet hit the footboard. Now the drivers and the guards are panicky. They have refused to go with trains unless they are given some protection. May I know, if the hon'ble Minister knows about these two incidents? The running staff and other staff are being beaten to death, robbed and all their cash and uniform taken away...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have said that on the last occasion when the question came up.

SHRI A. C. GILBERT:... May I know, Madam, what steps are being taken to stop these incidents and whether cases, in which guards have been murdered while on duty, have been sent to the C.B.I. for investigation and if not, the reasons therefor? Madam, I will quote only three cases—this is important and you will kindly allow me. Guard Balbir Singh was murdered while on duty in 1968 but the case was not given to the C.B.I. for investigation.

Another, a Vigilance Inspector of the North-Eastern Railway, who was going back after enquiry was shot with a bullet somewhere near the Aishbagh railway station. I raised this through an unstarred question. This case was not given to the C.B.I. for investigation. . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You should stop here. You cannot go on making a speech. These supplementaries do not arise out of the Question here.

SHRI A. C. GILBERT: Madam, this question concerns railway property and the lives of the railway employees. The case in question was not handed over by the Vigilance to the C.B.I. for investigation.

Similarly, some two months back a Parcel Clerk of the New Delhi station, who is the General Secretary of a recognised Union, while going home from duty, was target of a murderous assault. He was admitted in the Central Hospital. He stayed there for two months. No interest has

been taken by the Divisional authorities to have this case investigated by the C.B.I.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Actually, Madam, if I may say so, this question is entirely irrelevant. Nobody is panicky. Everybody is working with as much vigour as one can expect of them.

DR. B. N. ANTANI: I want to invite the attention of the hon'ble Railway Minister to (he frequency of such attacks being made on one track alone, the Tundla line. Will he investigate the reasons why these attacks are so frequent on this particular track? There must be some reasons for that.

Secondly, I am grateful to the Railway Minister for having agreed to meet these guards on the 22nd May. But may I request him to get some machinery ready whereby concrete suggestions about such incidents can be given from time to time?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Madam, I have already met them day before yesterday evening and again I will be meeting them. But to parade here that nobody is desirous to work is something which is only in the questioner's imagination and nowhere else on the surface.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But there are many more questioners.

DR. B. N. ANTANI: I never imagine or dream.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह मंडारी : मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि अलीपुर-द्वार की इस घटना में दो दिन तक लगभग गाड़ियां बन्द रहीं तो किन कारणों से गाड़ियां बन्द रहीं, क्या यह आर्गो-नाइज्ड अटैम्प्ट था और अगर आर्गोनाइज्ड अटैम्प्ट था तो यह किनके द्वारा आर्गो-नाइज्ड किया गया था। क्या जानकारी इसके बारे में आपको है। और उस आर्गो-नाइज्ड अटैम्प्ट को रोकने के लिये आप क्या समझते हैं कि प्रादेशिक सरकार को जितनी तत्परता और मुस्तैदी इसमें दिखानी चाहिये थी वह उन्होंने दिखाई और इसके

बावजूद भी दो दिन तक सारा ट्रैफिक रुका रहा। तो इसके सम्बन्ध में आपको क्या कहना है।

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : जितनी बातें समाचारपत्रों में आई हैं और जो भी खबर हम लोगों को अपने अफसरों के माध्यम से आई है उसके अनुसार उन लोगों ने सब से मिलने की कोशिश की, टेलिफोन पर भी बातें की, और काफी समय तक सारी मशीनरी पैरेलाइज्ड रही, न पुलिस आ पाई, न कोई सब-डिविजनल मैजिस्ट्रेट या दूसरी अथारिटी आई, ये बहुत देर से पहुंचे, और अंततोगत्वा जलपायगुड़ी के एडिशनल डिप्टी कमिशनर से सम्पर्क हो पाया। इसमें पोलिटिकल या जैसा चाहे कहें किसी लड़के या दूसरे का झगड़ा था, लड़का, स्टुडेंट मर गया वहां पर तो सिविल अथारिटी को सारी कार्यवाही करनी चाहिये थी, उन्होंने कार्यवाही नहीं की और जब बद अमनी फैली तो लोग रेलवे लाइन पर भी आये। और तो और उसको सिविल अस्पताल में ले जाने में भी लोग असमर्थ रहे कि उस लड़के को ले जा कर उसका पोस्टमार्टम कराये, तो उस लड़के को रेलवे अस्पताल में लाना पड़ा, मगर वह तो मर चुका था, वहां आखिर क्या किया जाय। तो स्थिति बड़ी भयावह थी, वहां कोई अमन-चैन नहीं था और इसलिए रेलवे को क्षति उठानी पड़ी।

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : यह आर्गेनाइज्ड था या नहीं।

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : आर्गेनाइज्ड है या क्या है यह तो जानकार लोग कह सकते हैं, मैं कैसे कहूं, एक अलग विभाग का, वहां का, सी० आई० डी० जाय तो...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister has given all the information, Mr. Anandan.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: Taking into consideration the frequency of attack and destruction of the Railway property in this country, especially after Independence will the hon. Railway Minister consider the feasibility of calling all the political leaders for a Conference and convincing them that the property of the Railways is a public property and the loss to the Railways means a loss to the country as a whole?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Are the political leaders so ignorant that they do not know that this is public property?

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: In the last three days, some Railway accidents have occurred in the South-Central Zone and the Southern Railway Zone; some passengers have suffered some injuries and it is feared that one or two persons have also died in these accidents. The Railway lines are dislocated and the trains are diverted to different routes. I would like to know whether the hon. Railway Minister is going to make a statement in regard to this.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This does not relate to the Short Notice Question.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: This is a different issue altogether.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER REGARDING STARRED QUESTION NO. 268 ANSWERED ON THE 5TH MARCH, 1969

LOAN TO BIRLAS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF QUARTERS FOR WORKERS OF HINDUSTAN MOTORS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY): Madam, while furnishing supplementary information to Starred Question No. 268 in this House on the 5th March, 1969, I, inter alia, stated that the Government of West Bengal had intimated that M/s Birla Jute Manufacturing Co. Ltd., District 24-Parganas, has taken a loan of Rs. 1,05,500 and a grant