

## RAJYA SABHA

*Monday the 19th May 1969/the 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 rail-  
way properties were destroyed and da-  
maged 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 07 00 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 Mi-  
nister what steps they have taken to safe-  
guard 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 Rail-  
ways 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 vic-  
tim to anybody's fury

SHRI A C GILBERT Madam, the  
miscreants' activities are on the increase  
and the Government has yet not been able  
to suppress them The employees while on  
duty are nervous and all the time feel in-  
secure 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, enter-  
ed the combined Guards' and Drivers' Run-  
ning 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 Juhri 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 the 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 आर्गे-नाइज्ड अटैम्प्ट था और अगर आर्गेनाइज्ड अटैम्प्ट था तो यह किनके द्वारा आर्गे-नाइज किया गया था। क्या जानकारी इसके बारे में आपको है। और उस आर्गे-नाइज्ड अटैम्प्ट को रोकने के लिये आप क्या समझते हैं कि प्रादेशिक सरकार को जितनी तत्परता और मुत्तैदी 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 कहूँ, 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, had taken a loan of Rs. 1,05,500 and a grant