

[Shri Y. B. Chavan] with you not to compel me to make a statement. Ultimately what statement can I make about what is happening in the State there. *(Interruption)*. No, no. Let me complete it. You are free to take the matter up with the Chairman. Even then I am trying to get the facts and unless I get the facts correctly, officially, in this matter, I cannot make a statement here. I am trying to prepare the statement. I must have time to go and look into the facts. I have not yet had time to look into the facts. After I leave the House I will go and look into it and perhaps try to read some statement at five o'clock.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I have a submission to make. First of all, it is not proper. You have seen in the newspaper—it is not the Opposition's paper—as to what happened in Punjab on Monday. Now, we know very well that the Home Minister was quite prompt in making statements about very many things that happened in the non-Congress Government States, as for example, in West Bengal. About West Bengal he made a number of statements even without being asked to make such statements. Even on the ruling of the Speaker he gave his interpretation—ruling of the Speaker of the dissolved West Bengal. Here I find the Government is delaying it. Yet in the newspaper we read that the Gill people have come here to have consultations with the Government in order that a kind of note should be prepared. Do I understand that time is being taken in order to thrash out the matter with Mr. Gill, so that a kind of statement could be made which would suit Mr. Gill? I would like to know it. Is it so unimportant as all that? The Government of the country should state what happened. It is not disputed. Even Congress Members in the Punjab Assembly were expressing their doubts as to what they should do, whether they should support Mr. Gill. Some of them said that they were ashamed that such a thing happened. Police should not have been brought in this manner. Is this a small matter?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I am not unwilling to share it, but you must give me time.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I cannot understand it, Mr. Chavan. The incident took place on Monday. Today is Wednesday and I think more than 72 hours have passed since that time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think what the Home Minister has said is quite reasonable. He is still preparing a statement. He will be here, if he is prepared to make the statement at four o'clock. He will run it off and get it circulated. He is still preparing the statement.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: He will not just do anything in this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry. It is my considered view that in a matter like this he is still preparing the statement. Therefore, give him an opportunity. After all there are only three hours left before it is four o'clock.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It is not our intention to hustle him, but imagine what would have happened if it had been happening in a non-Congress State . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have had enough discussion.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You have seen what happened with regard to West Bengal. Let me explain

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have stated my view. Statement by Railway Minister.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: . It is becoming a farce.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

COLLISION BETWEEN POONA-BANGALORE DECCAN EXPRESS AND BIRUR-HUBLI PASSENGER TRAINS AT YALVIGI STATION OF SOUTHERN RAILWAY

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI
ROHANLAL CHATURVEDI): Sir, with
profound regret I have to inform the House that
at about 22.35 hours last night train No. 208
Down J Poona-Bangalore Deccan Express en-
tered the platform line of Yalvigi

station, on the Harihar-Hubli metre gauge section of the Mysore Division of Southern Railway, and collided head-on with train No. 215 Up Birur-Hubli passenger which had been received on that line earlier at 21.55 hours.

As a result the engines of both the trains got entangled and the front coaches next to the engines of both the trains got smashed. According to latest report available, 36 persons were killed and 34 injured, of whom 11 persons are suspected to have sustained serious injuries. One injured person succumbed to his injuries bringing the total number of dead persons to 37.

Immediately on receipt of information medical van accompanied by Assistant Medical Officer was rushed from Harihar. Medical Relief Special accompanied by Divisional Medical Officer and Divisional Operating Superintendent was also despatched from Arsikere at 23.25 hours. The Divisional Superintendent and Divisional Engineer, Mysore also left for the site by Medical Relief Special from Bangalore. The Divisional Superintendent, Hubli along with the Divisional Medical Officer and Divisional Operating Superintendent left Hubli by Medical Relief Special at 23.20 hours and reached the site at 00.55 hours. In the meantime 3 doctors who were travelling by train No. 208 Down rendered first aid to the injured.

The General Manager, Southern Railway along with the Heads of Departments has flown to the site. The Minister of State for Railways accompanied by the Member Mechanical Railway Board and Director (Safety and Coaching) has also flown from Delhi to the site of the accident.

Ex-gratia payment is being arranged to the injured and to the next of kin of the dead.

[THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरड़िया
(मध्य प्रदेश) : क्या रेलवे एक्सीडेंट मंत्री महोदय यह बताने का कष्ट करेंगे कि ये एक्सीडेंट क्यों बढ़ते जा रहे हैं ? दुर्घटनाएं

बढ़ती जा रही हैं, पीछे से सारा लवाजमा आपका पटुंच जाता है जिसकी सारी लिस्ट आपने सुना दी—इससे मृत आदमी तो जीवित नहीं हो सकते । पुरानी रिपोर्ट का आपके यहां अध्ययन होता नहीं है, आप जिम्मेदारी ढालने का प्रयत्न करते हैं, अपने ऊपर जिम्मेदारी लेते नहीं और आपके अफसर जिम्मेदारी ढालते हैं उस पोटर पर या उस पाइंटसमैन पर जो सिगनल देने वाला होता है । और परिणाम कुछ हो नहीं पाता है, एक्सीडेंट बढ़ते जा रहे हैं । क्या आप अपनी भद्रता का परिचय देने की दृष्टि से—जो थोड़े दिनों से दुर्घटनाएं बढ़ती जा रही हैं और जिनको रोकने में आप अपनी असमर्थता प्रकट करते हैं—क्या आप इस्तीफा देने को तैयार हैं ?

श्री रोहन लाल चतुर्वेदी : माननीय सदस्य अपनी राय जैसी चाहें कायम कर सकते हैं । जहां तक रेलवे विभाग का संबंध है । हम लोग पूरा प्रयत्न करते हैं कि सुचारु रूप से रेलवे चलें । पिछले आंकड़े भी अगर देखें जायें—वैसे ऐसी दुर्घटनाओं का हमें दुःख है . . .

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरड़िया : लखी सराय के लिए भी दुःख है, इसका भी दुःख है और आगे भी दुःख होगा ।

श्री रोहन लाल चतुर्वेदी : एक्सीडेंट होंगे तो दरअसल दुःख होगा लेकिन हम पूरा प्रयत्न करते हैं कि एक्सीडेंट न हों ।

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS (Orissa): It seems the more the accidents taking place the more the Railway Board is being expanded. According to the latest Budget they are going to have more of officers. May I know from the Minister, in view of these tragic accidents that are taking place in the country because of the bad administration of Railways, what was the reason for which this train which was entering that station dashed against another train that was standing there? Is it

[Shri Banka Behary Das]

because of some mechanical defect? Is it because of the fact that there was no clearance for the train to go? Or is it because of the fact that there was some obstruction and still the train was going at such a high speed that it could not be averted?

SHRI ROHANLAL CHATURVEDI: The exact facts we cannot say at this moment. The Minister of State of Railways is already there, the Member (Mechanical) is already there. Unless we get a report we will not be able to say anything in the matter.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA (Uttar Pradesh): May I know from the hon. Deputy Minister whether in view of the accidents happening too often, in view of the great inefficiency of the Railways and in view of practically there being no administration in the Railways, it is not high time that a strong, high powered Parliamentary Committee is appointed to go into the working of the whole Railways with a view to finding out where the human error lies and set right things?

SHRI ROHANLAL CHATURVEDI: We will certainly look into the suggestion of the hon. Member.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN (Kerala): May I know from the hon. Minister whether instructions would be given that wherever a non-stopping train passes a railway station it would pass only at the minimum safety speed? Whereas, it has been found to be the practice always that when a non-stopping train passes a particular railway station where it does not stop it speeds quite a lot often much more than when it runs on an open track. Particularly in view of the fact that these types of accidents are on the increase, may I know whether this type of general instruction would be issued from the Ministerial level?

SHRI ROHANLAL CHATURVEDI: We will certainly look into your suggestion.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY (Mysore): It is obvious from the facts stated that the mistake seems to be that of the Control. Most of the accU

dents result on account of the wrong direction given by the Control, and not only these accidents, trains have been delayed unnecessarily because of the wrong calculation of Controls. Sometimes goods trains are given precedence over long distance Express trains. May I know from the Minister whether this aspect has been attended to and whether this gross inefficiency in the Controls will be corrected?

SHRI ROHANLAL CHATURVEDI: We will certainly look into this.

ALLOTMENT OF TIME FOR THE SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL DE- VELOPMENTS IN PUNJAB

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that under rule 177 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, the Chairman has allotted two hours for the Short Duration Discussion on the constitutional developments in Punjab.

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

THE DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1968

SECRETARY: Madam, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary of the Lok Sabha:—

"In accordance with the provisions of Rule 98 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. I am directed to enclose herewith the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1968, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th March, 1968". Madam. I lay the Bill on the Table.

THE BUDGET (GENERAL), 1968-69 GENERAL DISCUSSION— contd.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We come to the debate. Mr. Untoo, you were speaking yesterday. You continue.

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