

SHAH NAWAZ KHAN. No, Sir, that is not so. As I have just stated, Sir, the theft was committed in the early hours of the morning. Search parties started off immediately and by about 9 or 10 o'clock they had recovered most of the property.

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: May I know, Sir, whether the tyres were lying along the railway track and also whether any culprits have been arrested up to this time?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: I have said, Sir, that no culprits have been arrested so far and I may add that we are very hot on their trail.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know, Sir, how that wagon was victimised?

MR. CHAIRMAN. He wants to know whether the word 'victimised' can be applied to a wagon. That is the question which he is raising.

(No reply.)

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: I wanted to ask if in a running train a theft is committed, is it wrong to describe it as 'loot', and if this is not loot, what other thing would be loot?

(No reply.)

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: I want to know whether the theft took place while the train was just near a station or somewhere in between two stations?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: In mid-section.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: How could they stop this train?

(No reply.)

MILD CANE CHARGE BY THE RAILWAY POLICE

\*168. SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Police resorted to a mild cane charge on the 1st of April, 1960, on the suburban railway line in Bombay to disperse the passengers; and

(b) if so, what were the circumstances in which and the station at which the cane charge was resorted to?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A crowd of demonstrators had collected at Andheri railway station from 07-24 hours on 1st April, 1960, and obstructed the train services. It was found later that there was no train originating from Andheri railway station between 07-10 and 07-30 hours which caused inconvenience to the travelling public in that area. Repeated attempts by the Railway and police authorities to persuade the crowd to allow the trains to proceed were of no avail. The police had to resort to a light cane charge when the crowd did not disperse and instead became violent.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know, Sir, whether any member of the crowd was injured in this cane-charge?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: The cane-charge was so mild that nobody was injured.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know, Sir, whether any arrest has been made and any prosecution launched?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: Twenty persons have been charge-sheeted.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY: The hon. Minister just now said that there were a few demonstrators. May I know, Sir, what was the provocation for such demonstration?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: I have already said that simply because there was no train between 07.10 and 07.30

hours the people seem to have taken the law into their own hands and thrown stones at the police officers and railway officials.

**SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY:** May I know whether it is not a fact that the behaviour of some officials was responsible for this grave provocation as a result of which there was demonstration by the passengers?

**SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY:** No, none of the officers was responsible. The people took the law into their own hands even after the railway officers and the police officers persuaded them and requested them not to obstruct the movement of trains, and they threw stones at the police and railway officials.

**DR. RAGHUBIR SINH:** May I know, Sir, as to why there was no train between those two particular timings that the hon. the Deputy Minister mentioned?

**SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY:** As an economy measure I presume a train was cut out.

**DR. RAGHUBIR SINH:** Was any notice given that the train was being cut out or discontinued on that particular date?

**SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY:** Presumably, all the procedures had been observed.

**DR. RAGHUBIR SINH:** Is the hon. Minister sure about it? Otherwise there could not have been all this disorder.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Are you sure about your facts? That is what he asks.

(No reply.)

**SHRI K. K. SHAH:** Is the hon. Minister aware that the trains were formerly running up to Andheri and that subsequently they were extended up to Borivli as a result of which the

traffic at Andheri could not be taken in and therefore the crowd got restive?

**SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY:** Whatever the merits of that might be, they had no business to take the law into their own hands.

**SHRI H. P. SAKSENA:** May I know under what section of the Indian Penal Code this cane-charge was resorted to?

**SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY:** It is not under the Indian Penal Code. The Police Act is there and the police are authorised to make a cane-charge; it may be mild, it may be severe, depending upon the circumstances.

**SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI:** May I know, Sir, whether the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to a report in the 'Times of India' to the effect that because the railway authorities stopped the train the demonstration was held, and if it is not a fact, may I know, Sir, why the Railway Ministry has not issued a contradiction to that?

**SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY:** So many things appear in so many papers. It is not necessary to contradict every one of them.

**BRIDGES ON THE JOWAI-BADARPUR PORTION OF THE SHILLONG-AGARTALA ALL-WEATHER ROAD**

\*169. **SHRI S. C. DEB:** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 91 in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th February, 1960 and state:

(a) the details of the bridges which are to be constructed on the Jowai-Badarpur portion of the Shillong-Agartala all-weather road; and

(b) by when the whole construction work will be completed and road opened for all-weather traffic?