Demand to Fill Up Vacancies to Ensure Safety in the Indian Railways

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, with new trains, new routes and extra facilities, the Railway Department is ever growing. Instead of maintaining the necessary strength, downsizing the work force result in repeated accidents in various Railways.

Recent accident in Andhra Pradesh is one such example. As per the precautionary norms, there must be two gangmen for four kilometers of up and down for track inspection. But only one gangman is asked to look after the same. In that section where the accident took place, none of them was on duty.

There should be thirteen people in a gang consisting of one mistry, one key man, four senior gangman and seven gangman. But now it is reduced to seven. Apart from non-fillling up of vacancies over the years, they were not being supplied with gumboots, raincoats and torchlights, etc. for night duty. In this particular section where the accident took place, out of 240 sanctioned posts in the Civil Engineering Department, there are only 140 men at the disposal.

More than 9000 vacancies are there in various departments in Secunderabad Zone. The existing rule provides the driver with caution order whenever there is a cyclonic weather. But it is violated in this case. A railway Khalasi used to be posted to observe the rising flood waters nearby railway tracks. An automatic flood danger electric indicator at the bridge is one of the safety indicators, but all these have been discontinued.

So, I request the Ministry to take steps to fill up the vacancies in the Railways and ensure the safety of the passengers. Thank You, Sir.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Penumali Madhu.

RE. FELICITATION TO SHRI SACHIN TENDULKAR ON SCORING 35TH TEST CENTURY

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, this House congratulates Shri Sachin Tendulkar for the scoring of the highest number of Test centuries in the world. Sachin Tendulkar has brought honour to