

### Bus Accident in Manipur

\*975. **Shri L. Achaw Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that 4 persons including a woman were killed and seven others were seriously injured in a bus accident on the Ukhrul Road in Manipur when the bridge at Nungsangkhong broke down and the vehicle capsized into the river on the 14th February, 1958;

(b) if so, whether the fatal accident was due to the weak condition of the bridge;

(c) if so, the reasons why prior warning was not given about the bridge; and

(d) whether any public enquiry has been demanded into the incident?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Preliminary enquiries show that the accident was due to the vehicle being overloaded and driven at high speed down a hill road. There is a sign-board on this road warning that vehicles over 15 cwts. should not ply on this stretch of the road.

(d) Yes.

**Shri L. Achaw Singh:** May I know whether it is not a fact that the bridge was built in the year 1955 on a temporary basis with wooden material, and not with iron material? If it is a fact, may I know why the repair was not done in time?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** As I said, it is only a temporary structure; no permanent bridge exists on that site. The temporary structure was only for a temporary purpose, so that the traffic may not be entirely suspended. There was a clear warning on a notice board that no vehicle should be driven beyond a particular speed. The weight of the vehicle was also given. Despite that, if the driver of the

over-crowded bus drove the bus at a higher speed, we cannot help an accident. It is not for us to fix the responsibility for the accident before an enquiry is made.

**Shri L. Achaw Singh:** May I know whether any compensation would be paid to the families of the bereaved?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** It was a private bus. I think the provisions of Chapter 8 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, would be attracted in this behalf and claims will have to be preferred with the insurance companies concerned.

### Tampering of Rail Track

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 { **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhari:**  
 { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**  
 \*976. { **Shri Assar:**  
 { **Shri M. N. Singh:**  
 { **Shri Raghunath Singh:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news appearing in "The Statesman" of 1st March, 1958, in regard to the fact that the presence of mind of a 14-year-old school boy led to the arrest of two men who were tampering with the railway line near Rouse Avenue, New Delhi, on the evening of Friday, the 28th February, 1958 and which might have otherwise resulted in a serious rail disaster; and

(b) if so, the details of the incident?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) and (b). The news item refers to an incident which occurred on the morning (and not evening) of 28th February, 1958 at mile 954/6-7 between New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin stations of the Northern Railway. Two persons who are alleged to have removed a Rail Anchor from the Railway track have been arrested. The matter is under investigation of the Police Department.

**Shrimati Na Palchoudhuri:** Considering the presence of mind of the very young boy, may I know whether he will be given any reward for it?

**Shri Shah nawaz Khan:** It is too early to say that.

**Mr. Speaker:** Then why not hold an examination? We are trying to save the lives of people. We are happy to know that lives have been saved. What more has to be done?

**Shri Shah nawaz Khan:** May I make a statement? I think a wrong impression has been created that merely by removing the anchor an accident can be caused. It is a very small piece of steel that is meant to keep the rail in line. The removal of one anchor would not lead to an accident. In fact, the removal of many or several anchors would not lead to an accident.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : अखबारों से यह मालूम होता है कि यह जो तीन घादमी थे वह रेलवे सर्विस में थे। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उनका ताल्लुक किमी यूनियन से है, या कोई सैवाटियर ऐक्टिविटी थी जिससे उनका सम्बन्ध था और इसलिये वह रेलवे लाइन के खिलाफ कार्यवाही कर रहे थे ?

श्री साहनबाज खां : वह रेलवे पर टेम्पोररी तौर पर काम कर रहे हैं, पकड़े नहीं हैं। अब पुलिस इन्क्वायरी कर रही है। मालूम नहीं किमी पार्टी के साथ उनका ताल्लुक है या नहीं।

**Mr. Speaker:** The matter is under enquiry.

#### Looting of Mokameh Express

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 \*977. { **Shri Tangamani:**  
**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:**  
**Shri Assar:**  
**Shri Raghunath Singh:**  
**Shri Ram Krishan:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that passengers of a third class compartment

of the Mokameh Express were looted by an armed gang between Memari and Rasulpur Stations of the Eastern railway on the 25th February, 1958:

(b) if so, how the train was stopped; and

(c) what are the other details of the robbery?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah nawaz Khan:): (a) Yes.

(b) By pulling the alarm chain.

(c) On 25th February, 1958, the 305 Up Mokameh Express was stopped by pulling the alarm chain at mile 52/21 in Memari—Rasulpur Section. A gang of about 15 men entered and looted the passengers travelling in a third class compartment No. TPTH 5865. Property worth Rs. 685 was removed from seven passengers at the threat of killing them with daggers and Gupties pointed all the time towards them.

**Shri Tangamani:** May I know whether there was any injury to any of the passengers from whom the properties were looted?

**Shri Shah nawaz Khan:** There was no serious injury worth mentioning. They pointed the gupties and daggers at the passengers and deprived them of the money. I might inform the House that after they looted them, as they were running away, some of the passengers from the train got down and chased them. Some people from the villages nearby also joined them and they arrested six of them.

**Shri Tangamani:** May I know whether the police party was called for and whether any arrest has been made?

**Mr. Speaker:** He has said that six people have been arrested.

**Shri Tangamani:** I want to know whether the police party arrested any people after the incident.

**Mr. Speaker:** Have they been handed over to the police or released?