

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That is enough, please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, about 400 to 500 Indians were killed and thousands were injured in the fire accident of Saudi Arabia, who had gone there to perform Haj, This House had also passed a condolence motion in this regard. I have heard that a delegation, consisting of 38 representatives and 176 other persons were sent there and Rs. 2 or 2½ crore were spent on it and after this delegation hon. Ministers had also gone there. I hope that they must have submitting the report on this accident. In spite of all this another delegation comprising of 3 MPs i.e. Shri Mohammad Ali Ashraf Fatmi of Janata Dal, Shri E. Ahamed of Muslim League and Shrimati Begum Noor Bano of Congress was also sent there on 25th of April by the hon. Prime Minister. It would have been better if hon. Prime Minister were present here. Was it necessary to send a second delegation to inquire into such an accident.

12.00 hrs.

The hon. Prime Minister proclaims to create coordination with Opposition Parties, I would like to know from him as to why no M.P. from Opposition Party has been sent with these delegation. Some Members from BJP, Akali Dal, Samta Party, Shiv Sena and BSP could have been sent but it was not done. I seek clarification from the hon. Prime Minister as to why such a narrow and communal viewpoint has been adopted. It is not correct and I condemn this incident and demand that hon. Prime Minister should make a statement in this regard.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : Sir, I support the viewpoint of the hon. Member. A big amount is spent on sending delegations again and again. Why they are not submitting the report about this accident. We seek the report on this accident.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now Zero Hour is over.

12.01 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET—DEMANDS GRANTS,
1997-98 *Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now the House will take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1997-98.

Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Several issues are to be debated here.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am not allowing you. Nothing will go on record except Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat's speech.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways towards the prevailing railway system in the country. Railway plays an important role in linking various parts and strengthening the integrity of the country. Rail's are the mines of the country. For sometimes various operations of railways and punctuality of trains have been disturbed very much. Though on every station we found the main features of railways i.e. Safety, protection and punctuality, but these are not followed properly. The Government are making efforts to improve the situation but so far the desired results could not be achieved.

Increase in freight charges has created a rise in prices. As a result of it, in comparison to Railways people prefer to send goods by trucks. The increase in number of incidents of looting, dacoity and thefts in trains especially during night has also created a sense of insecurity. The Government make GRP and RPF responsible for it. Sir, through you I would like to remind the hon. Minister that he had given an assurance to convene a meeting of Chief Ministers of various states to take some concrete decision in this direction, I would like to know as to what action has been taken so far. What steps have been taken to ensure the safety of lives and property of passengers and what more he propose to do in this regard ? Hon. Minister of Railway had assured to set up a complaint cell in the Railway Board. In the newspapers I have read that in Delhi division of Northern Railway such a cell has been constituted. But when I tried to contact on the given telephone number, no reply was received. As per your orders any complaint can be made and latest information regarding Railways can be received from RM-DRM of complaint cell of the headquarter but it seems that your

*Not Recorded