

Mr. Speaker: What is the intimate connection between Aligarh and Brindaban? One is a Muslim centre and the other a Hindu centre.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: It will open up a country which is very important if between Brindaban and Aligarh and Kasganj a narrow gauge line is constructed. Is there any such proposal before you?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: As I have said, not at present.

Dr. M. S. Aney: Am I right in understanding that the priorities given in the Second Five-Year Plan will continue in spite of the priority which is being given in the Third Plan? Is that the meaning of the reply that has been given by the hon. Railway Minister?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: That assumption will apply in cases of approved schemes.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Thirumala Rao: May I draw your attention to Q. 1124 with regard to payment of compensation to the family of Shri K. Rama Rao. You said earlier that you will take it up later on.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. Q. 1124 may be answered.

**Compensation to the Family of
Shri K. Rama Rao**

*1124. **Shri P. G. Deb:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to pay compensation to the family of Shri K. Rama Rao due to accidental death on Railways last week; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). The matter relating to Shri Rama Rao's death is still under enquiry.

Mr. Speaker: The question relates to compensation.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: After the enquiry, this question can be considered.

Shri Kalika Singh: May I know whether when the body of the late editor was picked up there was still life in it and it was not extinct?

Mr. Speaker: That was asked earlier. They said that a committee is enquiring into this matter.

Shri Vajpayee: On a previous occasion the hon. Minister was pleased to state that he was dead when he was picked up by the Janata Express. But we have received letters from the sons of the late Shri K. Rama Rao saying that he was breathing and was not picked up in time. Therefore may I know if the hon. Minister will consider the desirability of directing the enquiry committee to make a specific enquiry into this matter?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): As I have said earlier, I cannot express any opinion about the opinion held by the son of the late Shri Rama Rao. The enquiry committee will naturally take all these factors into consideration while making investigations.

Shri Ranga: He has not asked the hon. Minister to express an opinion. He has said whether they would be good enough to direct the enquiry committee to study this question also?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The enquiry committee will naturally go into this question.

Shri Thirumala Rao: May I know whether, after the report is received, Government will consider the question of compensation sympathetically?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Yes, it will be considered sympathetically.

Shri C. R. Patil: May I know whether any interim compensation is going to be paid pending the enquiry?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I may make it clear that in such cases compensation, as in usual cases of Railway accidents, is not permissible. This will come under the common law, the

law of Torts or the Indian Fatal Accidents Act. As I said, after the enquiry is over we will consider it sympathetically.

Shri Joachim Alva: Have the Railways different scales of compensation for people of different standings in life? In that case, will the Railways consider paying the highest compensation to the deceased?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: As I have already stated, I will refer the hon. Member to....

Shri Kalika Singh: May I know whether any claim has been received and, if so, for how much?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: No claim has been received. And, as I said, it will not be under the Railways Act but under the law of Torts or the Indian Fatal Accidents Act.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Since people have been agitating about this all over India, may I know if any directive has been given to the Committee to expedite the submission of the report?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I will ask them to see that the enquiry is completed as early as possible. We are having some enquiry by the railway officers, and the other enquiry is by the police. I will draw the attention of the State Government also to this.

Shri Nathwani: The hon. Minister stated that the question of payment of compensation will be considered under the common law. May I know whether it would be under the Indian Fatal Accidents Act also or not.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have said that the common law covers it, that is the law of Torts, or the Indian Fatal Accidents Act. I will depend upon how the claim is made.

Mr. Speaker: He will remove the word "common". Under the law—that is enough, I think.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Yes, Sir, under the law.

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over. There are two Short Notice Questions.

Shri Goray: Sir, a very important subject I wanted to raise by my adjournment motion—about the World Peace Council meeting, and about some of the observations made there.

Mr. Speaker: There is a Short Notice Question on that.

Shri Goray: That hardly covers what I want to raise.

Mr. Speaker: I will allow him to put some questions.

Shri Goray: If you have read in the press....

Mr. Speaker: I will allow any number of questions on this matter. There is the Short Notice Question.

Shri Vajpayee: But the Prime Minister is not here.

Mr. Speaker: In that case what can I do even if I allow the adjournment motion?

Shri Vajpayee: The Prime Minister can come at 4 P.M.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is going off at a tangent. Shri Goray wanted his adjournment motion to be taken up.

An Hon. Member: The Prime Minister has come.

Mr. Speaker: I said that I am allowing a Short Notice Question on the same subject. The hon. the Prime Minister has accepted to answer it, where he will answer all these matters.

Shri Hem Barua: I have also tabled that adjournment motion and I may say that we are going to be very serious about it. We want to press it for discussion. The Short Notice Question will not serve our purpose.

Mr. Speaker: Let us hear the answer. Whether he will press or not press will be considered.

Mr. Tyagi.