

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is:

"That in pursuance of Section 3(4)(j) of the All India Council for Technical Education Act, 1987, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one Member from among themselves to serve as a member of the All India Council for Technical Education for a term of 3 years, subject to other provisions of the said Act".

The motion was adopted.

(ii) National Shipping Board

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of Section 4(2)(a) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 read with Rule 4(1) of the National Shipping Board Rules, 1960, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four Members from among themselves, to serve as Members of the National Shipping Board, for a period upto 10.4.1999, subject to other provisions of the said Act"

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is:

"That in pursuance of Section 4(2)(a) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 read with Rule 4(1) of the National Shipping Board Rules, 1960, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four Members from among themselves, to serve as Members of the National Shipping Board, for a period upto 10.4.1999, subject to other provisions of the said Act"

The motion was adopted

12.03 hrs.

CLARIFICATION ON PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my grave concern as well as objections. It is not my personal objection but the objection of the party too. We have undergone bitter experience during a few months' tenure about the hon. Prime Minister as to how he retracts from his statement. We have several such experiences but when the hon. Prime Minister makes statement on basic issues of National interests and makes objectionable policy statements while the Parliament is in Session and then

denies having made such statements, then we cannot remain mute spectator without commenting on it or raising objections against it. I have to mention two points clearly. The hon. Prime Minister during his recent visit to Kashmir Valley has only laid down foundation stones at those places which have no train services. During his visit to the valley he made a statement that he was ready to hold talks unconditionally. Next day, news quite contrary to it was published in the newspapers. It was very important statement in itself. There was an unopposed Motion of Parliament. Unconditional talks are to be held but with whom? Whether with Afghanese, Sudanese or other external forces already operating there? Next day he contradicted having made any such statement and something else appears in the Newspaper. In this regard, I feel my duty to tell you that my party wants peace in all the States and in the country and does not oppose it but strange news about Nagaland are pouring in. If the peace in the country is decided in United States and that too on some one's initiation, we cannot accept it. It is a very important issue which the hon. Prime Minister does not think it necessary to mention in the Parliament but such statements are being made. Whether the other hon. Members agree or disagree with it but I would like you to issue an order to the hon. Prime Minister to come to the House and give clarification on these two issues.

I would like to make one more request. Since the hon. Prime Minister is banking on the support of Congress Party and whether the hon. Prime Minister did something or did not do anything on the issue of Kashmir and Nagaland or made any statement, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not say that the Congress Party should also clarify whether it supports or oppose the policy statement made by the hon. Prime Minister? I had to submit only these two points.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I basically agree with what Shri Jaswant Singhji has stated. The statements made during the last two-three months from abroad as well as from within the country are very objectionable and are ominous signs for the future of the country. I do not want to go in detail in this regard. But we have received information that some foreign country directs our country to adopt any particular policy or follow any direction and our country keeps silence, I think, there would be nothing more improper than this. When economic policies were being adopted in the past, I had stated that when we allowed intervention in our economic policies, we should be ready for intervention in our politics. But I had never thought about political intervention in such a clumsy manner. An emissary of a particular country was constantly allowed to visit Kashmir and talk to the local people. Not only this, the Department of External Affairs of that country

has been constantly informing that they were suggesting the Government of India as to what set should be taken on Kashmir issue. There can be nothing more unfortunate than this. The hon. Prime Minister is my friend. There can be nothing more improper than this that the hon. Prime Minister makes a statement one day and retracts it the very next day and that too when the Parliament is in Session.

I would like to say that not only Jaswant Singh or his party but the entire elite class of the country is concerned with it. I believe, Somnathji would be more concerned.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : I must respond to his observations. Naturally, my Party is a Party which brings sanity into this whole affair or in every affair. We have shown how probity and morality should be the order of the day.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as we are concerned we want normalisation of relations in Kashmir. There is no doubt that it is an integral part of India. There is no question of, in any way, compromising on that issue. We have seen that only the last Prime Minister and the present Prime Minister have taken some steps for normalising the situation there. There have been period of confrontation and trouble there.

I do not wish to go into that. We welcome any move made by the hon. Prime Minister to normalise the situation, to bring back some misguided people to the national mainstream. But, since very senior leaders like Chandra Shekharji and Jaswant Singhji have raised certain questions on this, I think that it will be proper for the hon. Prime Minister to come to the House and make it clear as to what he wanted to say, what his policy is or what has been his call while he was there.

Therefore, I would request the hon. Prime Minister to come and make it clear before this House. I am sure he will never compromise so far as India and its relations with that part of India and relations of other parts of India with that part of India are concerned. All efforts to normalise the situation should be welcome. But let the Prime Minister say, 'Yes, Sir, on the first day there was some statement and today some other statement has come'. We cannot always respond on the basis of newspaper reports. Therefore, it would be better if the hon. Prime Minister could come here and say what the position is.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I do support the view which has been expressed by my hon. colleague Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

By and large, there are no two opinions on this issue. In this august House, on a number of occasions, by and large, there has been unanimity among most of the political parties on this. Any effort to normalise relations with Pakistan is definitely welcome. Any effort to improve the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is also welcome. But, in the last few days, a number of statements have appeared in the newspapers. I do not know how far they are true and what exactly is the position. There were certain occasions when certain important representatives of the nation have visited that area giving some suggestions, talking with a number of local people. We have not, at least I have not, got any details about that. So, I think that it will definitely be better if the Prime Minister himself comes and makes a statement and briefs Parliament when it is in Session. The country should at least know about all these things.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : From your side, Shri Jaswant Singhji has spoken, if any particular matter has been left, you can tell.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, Prime Minister has attended four main functions there. In three out of them, he repeated the same statement that he wanted to have unconditional talks and in fourth function it was said that until they give up arms, there would not be any meaning of talks. So far as the matter of normalcy in Kashmir is concerned, every party wants to assist the Prime Minister in this regard. But one thing should be kept in mind that there is an elected Government there, you have elected a Government there. I have talked to some Ministers there. They all say that there is a lot of difference in our perception, their perception and the perception of the Central Government. They want to deal with those ultras in one way and Central Government is dealing in other way. Our Kashmir problem is lingering on due to this confusion. Therefore I want to request you that the Prime Minister has come, he should at least take the House in confidence and make it clear that both the Governments work on one line. I want to request him that we should not encourage the militancy there. A little normalcy has been brought in the situation by Armed Forces and Security Forces. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Sadar-Bazar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also want to say something. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. Let me say something.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : See, there is an established convention. Parliament is in Session. No policy statement should be made outside the Parliament. The Prime Minister should clarify as to what he has said.

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA (Jammu) : Please give me time to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please sit down. I have called the Prime Minister.

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : I had requested you earlier also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You say whatever you want to say. Gujral Sahib, please let him say what he wants to say.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West): Sir, I have been raising my hand on this since the very beginning.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, no one has spoken from our party also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I admit that no one has spoken from your party also.

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : Sir, first of all, the Prime Minister of Congress Government and after that the two Governments which came to power with our support, they took initiative in Jammu-Kashmir. They gave economic package for that State. I appreciate the interest being taken for bringing about normalcy there. They did a good job. It should be appreciated. My second point is that the Prime Minister should clarify his last statement. He has stated that the Union Government and the State Government are ready for talks with those local militants who are ready to come forward for talks after giving up arms for joining the mainstream. In my view it is worth appreciating. We must hold talks with the people of our State and the condition should be made normal.

Secondly, I would like to say that there is militancy in three districts. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Leave aside that issue. The Prime Minister would himself clarify.

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : He would clarify only when I will raise the point. If I do not raise the issue, how can we clarify. I want to say two things.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Prime Minister's statement is being discussed.

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : First let me say what I want to say. Then the reply to my point would come. Militancy has increased more in three districts, Punchh, Rajauri and Kargil. Items pertaining to Jammu in the package programme announced by Deve Gowdaji are not being implemented.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is all right. You have expressed your point.

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : Whether the items of package programme pertaining to Jammu are being implemented?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is all right. You have expressed your point. Now you please take your seat.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Sir, Whatever statement Shri Jaswant Singh has made in this House, I fully endorse that. Secondly, it is our experience for the last one-and-a-half years that we have been discussing the Jammu and Kashmir issue very often. It is a good sign that we are trying to negotiate and trying to establish peace in this part of the country, Jammu and Kashmir. At the same time, when we put certain conditions and when people from within had such a dialogue, I can understand it. But those people are encroaching on our land property and firing the people and killing the people. The Government of India should clarify its policy as to whom and with whom they are going to have negotiations and what action the Government of India is going to take eventually. Not only that, what message the Government of India intends to pass on to all these culprits, extremist and to those who are unnecessarily facing problems in Jammu and Kashmir. That is also a very important thing and that message should be clear. In that case, I would humbly request the hon. Prime Minister to clarify the policy.

[Translation]

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, while agreeing with what was said by Shri Jaswant Singh ji, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Shri Chandrashekhar and Shri Sharad Pawar, I am sorry to say that, particularly, the Hon'ble Prime Minister not only in this case, but in other cases also, makes one Statement in the morning and an other in the evening. It creates confusion.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : What are you saying? In which case I have done so?

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : I would like to know from him that when he made the statement in Kashmir that they were prepared to hold talks with militants un-conditionally, then had any militant organisation proposed to hold talks un-conditionally? He said one thing on his behalf but he changed his mind after coming to Delhi. He should clarify that point also

[English]

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, before I come to the point, I strongly protest against the observations made by my friend that I said something in the morning and said something else in the evening. I am always consistent in my statements on every issue and I continue to do that. And now we have come to this issue.

I had gone to Kashmir for two days. During my visit, I had the opportunity of not only laying the foundation stone for the new railway line that we are going to build in the Valley itself from Kazikund to Baramulla. The idea was that the railway line that is coming via Udhampur in one direction naturally goes through a different terrain, and it is taking more time. In the meantime, we have felt and thought that it would be more expeditious and useful if we lay the railway line also simultaneously in the Valley itself. Later on, through the tunnel it could be joined.

This will also be an effort to try to provide more employment there. Therefore, this year, we have earmarked about Rs. 75 crore for works in the Valley itself.

Apart from these two functions, I also had the opportunity of addressing the Army Jawans, their leaders, the BSF Jawans and their leaders. These were the four functions that I had attended. What is the situation in Kashmir? The situation in Kashmir today is, fortunately we have turned the corner. It is not that the insurgency has ended but by and large I think both the Governments—the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and the Central Government—have been able to get better of the insurgency. All the same, from across the

border, the insurgency is being sustained and a large number of weapons have been captured. I have seen two collections of those weapons which are very large and very sophisticated. I have also seen the figures of the various skirmishes that take place from time to time. I must say to the credit of our armed forces and also the BSF and other paramilitary forces that they have been able to safeguard our security firmly and with a great deal of efficiency. At the same time, we have been for the last three-four months, there is a consistent firing across the border and my friend, the Defence Minister, should be able to tell us more about it. This is also being resisted with firmness.

Our policy has another dimension also. Not only this Government but previously also we have been trying to get back those estranged youths, who I believe, have been led astray by the false propaganda against India. Some of them have come out and some of them have been absorbed in various Services also. What I was saying exactly has been now clarified. If at all a clarification was called for in the interview that I gave on the plane to *The Hindustan Times*. The main point is that we are always willing to talk to those young men who are our own children, and who are our own boys who have been led astray. Naturally, it is implied and also understand that they must give up arms and they must come back home. I will use to exact word. My friend was present there when I was saying that I was talking like a father to the young children that if in the family the sons go astray or get alienated, it is my duty as head of the family to invite them back, try to remove their doubts and suspicions. I stand by that. That is what I said in all the two speeches. Fortunately or unfortunately, I was speaking, particular, in Quajigund in Urdu. I know Urdu very well. So, I was speaking in chaste Urdu. So many of my own friends, perhaps, do not understand Urdu. Therefore, when I was talking about these boys, they thought that I was talking to the militants across the border or those who have been supported by Pakistan. No; not at all.

Two things are very clear in my mind. On the very first day and every time I spoke in the House. I had clarified one thing. There is no compromise on two issues, secular unity of India and also the integrity of India. Jammu and Kashmir is a part of India. The whole State of Jammu and Kashmir is a part of India and shall continue to be so. There is no compromise on that. Therefore, there is no reasons for me to say and I was surprised that my friend, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, such a seasoned diplomat himself, should have to, in a hurry, condemn me without verifying the facts and should have made a statement which I very much regret because I have great respect for his maturity. But I would say only this thing and I reassure the House that no new policy

statements have been made. This has been the policy of the Government of India, not my Government only but the Governments which have preceded this Government. Even when Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was in power for thirteen days, the same policy was followed. Therefore, I would repeat India. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : They had no policy.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Well, I will not pass judgement on this. But I would only say this thing. Let me say in this House that I feel I represent the voice of this House when I say this thing that India has a Government, Jammu and Kashmir has a Government. Both of us are keen that alienated youths should come back. We are keen that they should find their place in our society. We are keen that the type of inter-communal relationship that existed in their State for centuries should be sustained. We are keen that that type of life must come back of which Kashmir used to be proud of. That is what we are trying to say.

So far as the discussion about these boys are concerned, all the time, they are going on and that is why, some of these boys have come back already.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You speak in simple Urdu. If you speak in chaste Urdu, they do not understand I ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the statement made by the hon. Prime Minister on Television and the statement made by him in the House are self contradictory. In the bulletin of 8.30 on TV it was stated that Prime Minister has said that we are ready to talk with terrorists without any pre-condition and in the news bulletin later it was said, as per the news received just now, the Prime Minister has said no negotiation will be held with the terrorists until they surrender their arms, which statement is true?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Look, please listen to me for a minute. If you want debate for the sake of debate, I can also do so. But remember one thing that the security of India, the Defence of India is the first and foremost responsibility of any of the Government and I cannot concede on that and nor there can be any compromise on that. No Government can do so. If any newspaper correspondent or reader. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : This is what I saw on TV.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : I have no monopoly on TV. I am not the news reader. ...*(Interruptions)* This is not the way.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Please get it investigated ...*(Interruptions)*. The people throughout the country listens to the news bulletin. You can get the records of that day ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : That is what I am saying. The country will remain united and we will not allow anyone to break it in the name of religion.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai North East) : I fail to understand the logic. These days the hon. Prime Minister appears on the screen so many times that he himself seems to be the news reader.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : I would submit that they want to disintegrate the country in the name of religion. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister is getting agitated unnecessarily. We think that the statements which appear in print and are reported on TV are true.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : You should go through the last statement also which is on record. If you have read it then you must have understood it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Our charge is that generally there is contradiction in your statements on TV. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : If there is contradiction in first and last statement the misunderstanding in the minds of people is but natural. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Let it be in the minds of the common people but not in the minds of intelligent people like you. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Prime Minister for telling me that there should be no misunderstanding in my mind. But there should not be any such thing which would create such misunderstanding.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Therefore, you should be fully attentive while giving statements.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : If we have to take care of everything what will the Prime Minister do.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now I suggest that the matter may be treated as closed.

[Translation]

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, do not teach me patriotism. I know what patriotism is. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I humbly request the hon. Prime Minister to be cautious because it does not behove him. First of all I do not want to be drawn in this controversy. One gets agitated when one comes to know that some elements want to disintegrate the country in the name of religion. We are also of that view. But this country will never disintegrate in the name of religion. Mr. Prime Minister I have not seen you getting angry not even single day on the statements coming from abroad in regard to disintegration of the country. So many statements were made during the last two months. Was it not the responsibility of the Government of India to deny those statements. Before getting angry with Shri Atal Bihari, Mr. Prime Minister learn to be angry with yourself. Why does your Government remain silent when wrong statements are made by foreign countries about India. This creates misunderstanding all over the world. This anger is not going to wipe out that misunderstanding. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I hold Shri Chandra Shekhar ji in high esteem. He is also my old friend. Which statement from abroad have not been replied. Tell me about one such statement, which has not been replied. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Rudy ji you please sit down.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Whichsoever it may be, anyone talking about the disintegration of the country, whether in the country or outside will be given a befitting reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Whosoever it may be but BJP will never disintegrate the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Prime Minister must accept it that there is misunderstanding because of his contradictory statements about the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. If this matter is raised in the House, it gives him an opportunity to clarify the position. Instead of clarifying the position he is charging us. You are charging us of disintegrating the country in the name of religion. This charge is baseless and mischievous. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Was the Babri Masjid demolished just for the sake of it? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, just now the hon. Prime Minister was speaking in regard to disintegration of the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : I was mentioning about the demolition of Babri Masjid. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now the Prime Minister has turned towards Babri Masjid demolition. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : The demolition of Babri Masjid was the sign of disintegrating the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if this issue goes further then I think the hon. Prime Minister will lose his cool and say things which would not behove him. If you want to have full debate on Babri Masjid then we are also ready.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Let it take place. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after all a resolution was adopted in this House in regard to Jammu and Kashmir and the Prime Minister also admits that he is bound by that. Every Government is bound by that. His first statement as reported said that he was ready for talks without any pre-conditions, now it is natural. ...*(Interruptions)*

Now keep sitting. Do not interrupt. I am saying so because if you interrupt like this, we will also interrupt and the House cannot be run like this. You should have patience to listen also. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : You should also not lose your temper. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the news agencies or television report two different statements of the Prime Minister and the entire nation listens to them, is it not natural that a question comes to one's mind that after all what the Prime Minister has said. Your latter statement was right. But this proved the point that your earlier statement was wrong. How a negotiation could be possible with those people without any pre-condition who want to dictate terms at the point of gun, who want to take away Kashmir from India, who are joining hands with foreign countries. Question of holding talks with them without any pre-condition should not arise. Had the Prime Minister confined his clarification to this only instead of making unnecessary remarks, it would not have resulted in so much heat. Let us see to what extent you have cooled down. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I appeal to the House that the matter has been clarified and it should be treated as closed.

[Translation]

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : But how it is all right.

[English]

Let me sum up. I am glad that we are now talking to each other in the way we should. The main point is that I am happy and grateful to the hon. Leader of Opposition, who is a kind friend also that he has drawn my attention to the Resolution of Parliament. The Resolution of Parliament is binding on all of us and that shall always be because we are all committed to that. That is why, I said in the beginning and I repeat, 'there is no compromise on the secular unity and also on the integrity of India'. When I say 'integrity', I include the entire Jammu and Kashmir State which was there before 1947. This is what I want to clarify.

So far as talking to those who are estranged, who are alienated youth, our own kin is concerned, if they want to come and talk without any pre-condition, I am going to talk to them.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ananth Kumar.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. I have already called Shri Ananth Kumar.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Sir, I want to raise the issue of the tragic accident that has taken place yesterday. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

[Translation]

I have called Shri Ananth Kumar.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : His notice is about railway accident only.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I want to draw the attention of the House to the tragic accident to the Karnataka Express which had rammed into the Himsagar Express causing deaths, injuries and damages to people. At least four bogies of the Karnataka Express, Airconditioned First

Class and other bogies, have been totally devastated thereby killing a lot of people. According to my information, there was no relief during the first two hours. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will allow all one by one.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will allow all of you. Please keep quiet.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) : We want a statement from the hon. Minister. The accident happened at 2.00 a.m. in the morning. No information was coming from the Government side in spite of the promise from the Government to make a statement. ...(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have already called Shri Ananth Kumar.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I want to draw the attention of the House and of the hon. Minister of Railways, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, to the ghastly tragedy that had taken place yesterday. There has been a lot of callousness and negligence. ...(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All of you cannot speak at one time. I have called one person. I will allow all one by one.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You go on shouting.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : We demanded that the hon. Minister of Railways should himself be present in the House and make a detailed report about the whole accident and what were the relief measures he had taken. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Srikant Jena has assured us that during the Zero Hour Shri Ram Vilas Paswan would come to the House and give a detailed statement about the accident. ...(Interruptions). Faridabad is not very far away from Delhi. He has already reached Delhi. Therefore, why is he not coming to the House?...(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am sorry to say that I will not allow the Member who shouts. Let the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs speak now.

...(Interruptions)