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12.27 hrs.

Title: *hRegarding major accidents occurred recently on Northern, South Central, East Central Railways and Konkan Railway (KRCL).

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Sir, I am pained to apprise the House regarding the major unfortunate accidents occurred recently on Northern, South Central, East Central Railways and Konkan Railway (KRCL). This includes the incidence of fire on Northern Railway and two major derailments on Konkan and South Central Railways. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to give an opportunity to you, please go back to your seats.

12.28 hrs.

*(At this stage, Dr. Manda Jagannath and some other hon. Members
went back to their seats.)*

*...(*Interruptions*)*

अध्यक्ष महोदय : ये कितनी अंडरस्टैंडिंग दिखा रहे हैं, आप भी अंडरस्टैंडिंग दिखाइये, मैं आपको भी कह रहा हूँ।

â€¦ (ब्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a decent way of running the House. It will not be possible for me to conduct the business of the House in this situation. On an important issue, that is, on the railway accidents, the Minister is making a Statement.

*...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: On 15.5.2003, there was fire in 2903 Up Golden Temple Mail at 3.55 hours between Ludhiana and Ladhawal stations on Ferozpur Division of Northern Railway. In this accident, three coaches got completely burnt (S-3, S-4 and S-5) and the fourth coach i.e., S-6 was partially affected by fire. Immediate action was taken to stop the train after detection of fire and thereafter the affected coaches were separated from rest of the train to save further loss of life. Immediate medical attention was provided to the injured persons and relief and rescue work was started. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats. Mr. Minister, please continue your Statement.

*...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I along with the Minister of State for Railways and Chairman, Railway Board inspected the site immediately on receipt of information. Members of Railway Board also visited the accident site and supervised relief and rescue operations. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: A very important Statement on railway accidents is being made. I would request the House to cooperate with the Chair.

*...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have rejected all notices of Adjournment Motions.

*...(*Interruptions*)*

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप सी.बी.आई. के बारे में भी प्रश्न पूछिये, वह उत्तर देंगे।

â€¦ (ब्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to discuss this issue. You can discuss it right now. You can start the discussion now. Please go back to your seats.

*...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): Sir, please allow us to speak on this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am prepared to allow you to discuss this issue at any time. Please discuss the issue properly.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: In this unfortunate accident, 36 persons lost their lives, 15 others were injured including two grievously injured. The Commissioner of Railway Safety (Northern Circle) is conducting statutory Inquiry into this accident. He has submitted his preliminary report and has said that the *prima facie* cause will be established on receipt of forensic report. His final report is, however, awaited....(Interruptions)

On 22nd June, 2003, train engine and the first four coaches of 904 Up Karwar-Mumbai Central Holiday Special derailed and capsized due to falling of boulders on Ratnagiri region of Konkan Railway (KRCL) at about 2115 hours. In this unfortunate accident, 52 persons lost their lives and 26 others were injured, including 16 grievously injured. Best possible medical attention was provided to the injured persons.â€ (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I would request the hon. Members once again to please go to their seats. There are many important issues for discussion. I am going to permit a discussion. If you want, you can take up a discussion today.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Statutory inquiry into the accident is being conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety/Central Circle. He has submitted his preliminary inquiry report and has mentioned the provisional findings as 'failure of right side slope of cutting resulting into obstruction of track'. The final inquiry report is, however, awaited....(Interruptions)

On 2nd June, 2003, 7201 Up Golconda Express, running between Guntur and Secunderabad, derailed at Warangal station located on Vijayawada-Kazipet Broad Gauge double line electrified section on Secunderabad Division of South Central Railway at 1025 hours. The train could not stop at the 'starter signal' on loop line for scheduled stoppage and entered the 'sand hump' after which the locomotive partly fell into the Road Under Bridge hitting an autorickshaw plying on the road below the railway track. ...(Interruptions)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप अपनी सीटों पर जाइए।

...(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जोशी मत कहो, श्री मुरली मनोहर जोशी कहो।

...(व्यवधान)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: In this unfortunate accident, 21 persons lost their lives and 24 were injured including 16 grievously injured. Immediate medical attention was provided and the injured were admitted in MGM Hospital, Warangal. Medical Relief trains along with doctors and officers from Kazipet and Secunderabad were sent immediately. ...(Interruptions)

Minister of State for Railways, Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, along with Chairman and Member Traffic, Railway Board, also rushed to the accident site to supervise rescue and relief operations. General Manager, South Central Railway and other senior officers also rushed to Warangal. Statutory Inquiry into this accident is being conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety/South Central Circle. He has submitted his preliminary inquiry report and has mentioned the provisional findings as 'late application of brakes' and has classified the accident under the category of 'failure of railway staff'. The final inquiry report is, however, awaited....(Interruptions)

Enhanced ex-gratia payment to the tune of Rs.1 lakh to the next of kin of the dead and Rs.15,000 to grievously injured and Rs.5,000 each to those having simple injuries were announced immediately in all these three major accidents....(Interruptions)

Indian Railways have to operate amidst many adverse extraneous factors. On the night of 14th July, 2003 and early hours of 15th July, 2003, there were four incidents of sabotage on Samastipur Division of East Central Railway, resulting in derailments of three passenger-carrying trains, viz., 519 Up Sonpur-Gorakhpur Passenger, 5219 Dn Kurla-Darbhanga Express, 285 Up Darbhanga-Narkatiaganj Passenger, and heavy detention to 530 Dn Gorakhpur-Muzaffarpur Passenger, due to blasting off of the track by using bombs in all these cases. Live bombs were also recovered from the accident sites which were subsequently defused by the State Government authorities. Fortunately, all passengers escaped unhurt in these untoward incidents which could have been fatal beyond imagination. Train services were severely affected. Railway officials had to struggle hard to restore the traffic, as all the incidents took place within a short span of about five hours only at different locations on the same division. ...(Interruptions)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : बूटा सिंह जी, आप अपनी सीट पर जाकर बोलिये, मैं आपको सुनना चाहता हूँ।

...(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपका निवेदन इतना महत्वपूर्ण है कि मैं सुनना चाहता हूँ। आप सीट पर जाकर बोलिये।

...(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : टीवी कैमरा बंद कीजिए।

...(व्यवधान)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: In order to stress the need for greater attention to safety, we had recently called a two-day 'Workshop on Safety' wherein railway staff of various categories of grassroots level, viz., pointsmen, gangmen, driver, guard, station master, permanent way inspector, carriage and wagon examination staff, etc., participated. This was attended by the organised unions of the labour as well as federations of railway officers. Some vital decisions have been taken based on the deliberations of this Workshop and a follow-up action has since been initiated on the same, besides further intensifying safety drives. Although the number of accidents has come down as compared to previous years, all-out efforts are being made to prevent accidents at all costs....(Interruptions)

On behalf of railways and myself, I express deep condolences to the bereaved families and also express sincere sympathies to the injured.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 7781/2003)

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri C.K. Jaffer Sharief to make his submission on drought situation in Karnataka,.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I think, he is not present.

...(Interruptions)

12.35 hrs.

(At this stage, Dr. Manda Jagannath and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Manda Jagannath, I have permitted your leader to speak. Please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

12.36 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch at

Fourteen of the Clock

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

â€¦(Interruptions)

श्री रामजीलाल सुमन (फिरोजाबाद) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह बहुत गंभीर मामला है,â€ (ब्यवधान)

14.01 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

.....(Interruptions)

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं आपकी बात सुनूंगा, पहले आप अपनी-अपनी सीटों पर जाइए।

â€ (ब्यवधान)