

**Title:** Request to find out the reasons of derailment of the Simhadri Express on the 04.08.2000 near Chagallu in the Vijayawada Division of the South-Central Railway.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESHWARLU (TENALI): It is not one particular incident. For the past three to four years, there have been several railway accidents and derailments, particularly in the Vijayawada Division of the South-Central Railway in Andhra Pradesh.

In the recent one, IN the derailment of the *Simhadri Express* on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August near Chagallu about five bogies had derailed. The reason that the Railway authorities have been giving is that there was an expansion of the track owing to the severe HOT sun! This derailment had happened at about 10.45 a.m. in the morning. I think that the reason that is being assigned that there was hot sun and the railway track had expanded, is no reason.

Recently, some seven to eight months ago, a train had derailed and one of our Ministers also passed away in that accident. There must be some defect in the track in the Vijayawada Division in the South Central Railway. As and when there is some derailment or accident, people have been just giving some reason and they have been conveniently forgetting about the total accident.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government and request them to look into the whole track as well as the bogies that are being supplied to the South Central Railway, particularly the Vijayawada Division and to find out the reason why such frequent accidents are there. There is neither a cyclone nor a flood, it is just a normal period and this derailment had occurred on the 4<sup>th</sup> August. This must be taken note of as a serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Somebody should take note of this.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESHWARLU : Somebody can make a note of this and find out why in the past four years there were as many as 25 to 30 derailments and accidents in the region.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government to this serious issue.