

an>

Title: Statement regarding incident occurred at unmanned level crossing on South Central Railway on 24.07.2014.

HON. CHAIRPERSON : Now, Statement by Shri D.V. Sadananda Gowda.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): Hon. Chairman, Sir, an unfortunate incident has happened this morning at an unmanned level crossing on South Central Railway in Telangana. My senior colleagues, Shri Venkaiah Naidu, hon. Minister of Urban Development and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Bandaru Dattatreya and other MPs from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh today raised this issue on the floor of the House and requested me to make a statement in this regard.

Sir, I am pained to apprise the House regarding an unfortunate incident which has occurred today at an unmanned level crossing wherein one school bus belonging to Kakatiya Techno School carrying children dashed against the train engine of Train No.57564 Nanded-Hyderabad Passenger at about 09.15 hours on 24.7.2014 between Wadiaram and Maisaipet railway stations on Nizamabad-Secunderabad section of Hyderabad Division of South Central Railway. In this incident, 18 school children and the bus driver lost their lives whereas 18 children suffered injuries. The injured have been shifted to the nearby hospitals. This incident took place in Medak District of Telangana State at Unmanned Level Crossing No.233-C which has a relatively low traffic density, that is 4850 Train Vehicle Unit as per the last census. Visibility at the unmanned level crossing was clear from all sides and basic infrastructure such as road signs, speed breakers, whistle boards, levelled surface and proper approach roads are available.

Medical relief was immediately arranged to the injured persons by rushing the Accident Relief Medical Train (ARME) to site and also about 10 road ambulances. The injured children have been shifted to nearby hospitals with the assistance of the local public and civil authorities. Accident Relief Medical Vans departed from Nizamabad and Secunderabad at 09.40 hours and 09.45 hours respectively and reached the site at 11.15 hours. Immediately, the General Manager, South Central Railway along with Departmental Heads and Divisional Railway Manager, Hyderabad along with Divisional Heads rushed to the accident site and hospital.

As per the preliminary information received, the incident occurred due to negligent driving by the driver of the school bus. The driver did not stop the vehicle at the Stop Board short of level crossing to check for approaching trains as prescribed in Section 131 of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

On humanitarian grounds, an ex-gratia amount of Rs.2 lakh each to the kin of the deceased, Rs.1 lakh to the grievously injured and Rs.20,000 to persons who sustained simple injury has been announced. ...(*Interruptions*)

On behalf of the Railways and myself, I express deep condolences to the bereaved families and also express sincere sympathies to the injured. I trust this House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: There is no clarification on this.

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY (MAHABUBNAGAR): Sir, the Minister has given a statement saying that it is the negligence of the bus driver. But when you know that it is in a remote area and it is in a remote village, how do you expect that a person in that type of area reads the caution board or the stop board and then proceeds? It is compulsory when people are passing through that and so much of traffic is there. You are supposed to have gates there. This is my first point

The second thing is that a compensation of Rs.2 lakh is too small amount. If even a small accident occurs anywhere in Hyderabad or Telangana, the State Government gives at least a minimum of Rs.5 lakh. We do not expect Rs.2 lakh from the Central Government. For your kind information, Sir, I would like to say that not only the children died, but when the news reached the parents, one of the parents got heart attack and he immediately died there itself. So, it is a very bad situation. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON : Please conclude now.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY : This is not a good gesture by the Minister. ...(*Interruptions*) He has to look into this. ...(*Interruptions*) Definitely, he has to raise the *ex gratia*. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go in record.

(*Interruptions*) \* \* \*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Saugata Roy.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: If you want a discussion, you can give notice as per the rules and norms. You can even meet the hon. Minister. That is the way out. You do not expect them answer immediately.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Sir, I am ready to start. Please bring the House to order. ...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, this is not the way.

...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go in record.

(Interruptions) â€! \*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, please sit down. Hon. Minister is responding.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Chairman, Sir, this is the usual procedure. This is not the compensation. Immediately soon after the incident, this is the *ex gratia* that we have announced. Compensation and other things should be taken care of by the Railway Department. All the information which I am placing before the House is the preliminary information that I have received from the officers. Thank you...(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (DARJEELING): You should increase the compensation to Rs.5 lakh. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY : Sir, we just want to know as to what the criterion is for it...( Interruptions) So many people have died there. ...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, nothing can be discussed like this. I am sorry for it. You are going out of the procedure. Nothing will go in record.

(Interruptions) â€! \*

PROF. SAUGATA ROY : You have got the chance to speak. Normally, nobody gets a chance after the Minister gives a reply. The Chair has given you a chance. At least allow other Members to speak. ...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You are going out of the way. There is a norm and procedure in the House. Already the hon. Minister has reacted. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY : Sir, please give us a minute. ...(Interruptions) This is a very important issue...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The only thing is that it is a tragic incident. The Chair agreed and you were given time. Prof. Saugata Roy, please continue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (KOLAR): Sir, when I was MoS in the Railways, in most of the cases we have given Rs.5 lakh to the deceased families. Only in a few cases, we gave Rs. 2 lakh. Other than that, compensation is also available for you. Students are the life of a nation and the parents have lost their children. I think the hon. Minister should take a view on it. Whenever he gets the detail, I request him to take a view on it. â€!  
(Interruptions)

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY : Sir, let the Minister respond to it. ...( Interruptions) That has to be committed. ...(Interruptions) There are so many people whom we have to give answer. ...(Interruptions) We have to answer the people. ...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, I am very sorry. This is not the way to behave in the House.

...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: This is a tragic incident. The Chair has agreed. You have expressed your views. The Minister has reacted. Please do not do like this. Everybody is taking only one minute. This is not the procedure. You are violating the procedure of the House. This is not good. Only because of the tragic incident, we have agreed for it. Prof. Saugata Roy, please continue.

...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON : You can give notice and have a discussion, but this is not the way. I have already agreed and you have made a statement. Do not expect everything to be answered in the House now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY : We were patiently waiting for the statement. ...(Interruptions) The Minister had said that he would give a statement at 3 o'clock. There is a precedent which the former Minister of State has already referred to. ...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I cannot compel for a statement now. He has already made a statement. Now if you want to discuss it further, he is here in the House and you may discuss it with him.

...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Do not do like this. You are talking of procedure of the House. It is only because it was a tragic incident that we have agreed.

...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please do not try to take too much advantage of this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY : Sir, this is a very sensitive issue. ...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I am very sorry. Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions) अक्षर ! \*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Prof. Saugata Roy, you can speak now.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Yes Sir, I want to speak. I do not want to disturb Members who are anguished. Normally, after a Minister makes a statement, we are not allowed to ask for clarifications. You have even allowed that. They should be happy with that. I am very concerned. We are very sorry. We are anguished. We express sympathy and everything. ...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Prof. Saugata Roy, please speak now.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: You have expressed the anguish of the people. Now, let this discussion continue. ...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go on record. Please sit down.

(Interruptions) अक्षर ! \*

प्रो. सांगत राय : नहीं तो आप प्रोटेस्ट करके वॉक आउट करिए, यह अच्छा इप्शन होगा। ...(व्यवधान) बाहर जाकर आप लोग स्टेटमेंट दीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: You can walk out. It will create an impact. लोग कहेंगे कि आपने वॉक आउट किया है। ...(व्यवधान)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: First, you sit down.

I have permitted you to make a statement, out of the way. The Minister has answered. You have expressed your anguish. Now, let the procedure go on. Do not stop the functioning of the House. This is not good for the House. You are all new Members who have come. Please do not behave like this.

...(Interruptions)