

[Sh. Santosh Bhartiya]

on its own. They should work for the fulfillment of the promises made in the Address. They have been given a mandate to eliminate the existing system. Corrupt elements will definitely denounce the Government for this as the present system is favourable to them but their criticism should be ignored.

Sir, I would like to tell hon. Members of the ruling party that if they do not make it a point to change the present system they would not be honouring the mandate given to them by the public. This may lead to dissensions within the party. I urge the Government to ignore the criticism of the supporters of the existing system. The Government should resolutely work for the points included in the President's Address.

Sir, I support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Railway Minister will now make a statement.

15.38 hrs.

[English]

STATEMENT *RE.* ACCIDENT INVOLVING NO. 9020 UP DEHRADUN-BOMBAY CENTRAL EXPRESS TRAIN ON 14.3.1990

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): Sir, I deeply regret to apprise the House of an unfortunate accident to train No. 9020 UP Dehradun-Bombay Central Express at about 15.25 hrs. on 14.3.1990 on the Ratlam-Dahod B.G. double line electrified section of the Ratlam Division of Western Railway. While this train with 16 coaches was on the run between Ratlam Junction and Morwani stations, the 6 rear-most coaches derailed, of which 4 coaches, marshalled 12th to 15th from train engine, capsized at Km. 646/23. As a result of this

derailment, 6 passengers lost their lives and 22 passengers sustained injuries, out of which 4 were grievous.

Immediately on receipt of information about the accident, Medical Relief Vans and Road Ambulances with Divisional officers and Doctors were rushed to the site from Ratlam. Divisional Railway Manager/Ratlam along with his officers immediately left for the site of the accident. Local civil and police officials also reached the accident spot. The injured were admitted to the civil and railway hospitals at Ratlam.

The General Manager, Western Railway and senior officers who were on inspection at Ankleshwar about 350 kms. from the site of accident also rushed to oversee relief arrangement at site.

Member Engineering, Railway Board also proceeded to the accident site.

The Commissioner of Railway Safety, Western Circle, who was with General Manager, Western Railway on inspection also proceeded to the site of accident. He will hold a statutory inquiry into the accident.

Ex-gratia relief to the next of kin of the dead and to the injured is being arranged.

I and all railwaymen and women extend our deepest condolences to the kith and kin of those who lost their lives and sincere sympathies to the injured in this unfortunate accident.

I am sure the House joins us in extending heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

[Translation]

SHRIDAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): Kindly give an assurance to the House that old railway lines and bridges would be replaced.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This point can not be raised now. All such points may be raised during the discussion on the Railway Budget.

At this moment no questions will be allowed in this House after the statement.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karol Bagh): What type of relief will be given by the Government to the families of those affected?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Relief is given in accordance with the provisions made for this purpose.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI C. SRINIVASAN (Dindigul): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for providing me an opportunity to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address and on behalf of the AIADMK under the dynamic leadership of Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi Jayalalitha, I place before this august House the views of our Party Sir, this House must view with concern the shabby treatment meted out to the democratic process in the recent elections. The main force behind our unity and integrity is the periodic elections through which we reiterate our faith in ruling ourselves. This country has however recently witnessed the gory events of elections being conducted in several States amidst large-scale violence and electoral malpractices. We have debated on several occasions the electoral reforms. Apart from the unsavoury incidents in Bihar and Haryana, several condemnable events had taken place in the elections to Palani Lok Sabha Constituency in Tamil Nadu. More than 300 booths were captured and the ruling party elements forced a section of the people to vote in favour of a political party. Despite these, the DMK could not win the seat. Immediately, on the day of counting they hiked the rice price by one rupee after being frustrated by the impending defeat in the bye-election. The DMK got severe drubbing not only in the Lok Sabha elections in Tamil Nadu, but also in the bye-election. This is a clear verdict for a change in Tamil Nadu. But the change is yet to come. The Government that has been outvoted by

expression of the people's opinion refuses to bow to the will of the people. In spite of this, this Government in Delhi is firmly supporting the anti-people Government to continue in Tamil Nadu. If at all they are sincere in their faith in democratic traditions, in their faith in the people of India, they must ask this DMK Government to step down and seek a fresh mandate.

AN HON. MEMBER: Sir, he can place it on the Table of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is his maiden speech.

SHRI C. SRINIVASAN: People may vote for every five years, but people must also support the Government they have elected for five years. If they express their disapproval in any form, then the will of the people must be respected. Let this Government not take shelter under the letter of the law but observe the spirit behind the constitutional provisions.

Sir, I must with all agony apprise this august House about the conspiratorial designs of the Tamil Nadu Government to physically eliminate the Leader of the Opposition and the mass leader Pauratchi Thalaivi Jayalalitha. They made an overt attempt on her life on the floor of the Assembly last year. Having failed and having lost the Lok Sabha elections with gaining no seat in favour of them, they are determined to liquidate her.

*[Translation]*

PROF. RAMGANESH KAPSE (Thane): Mr. Chairman, Sir, my point of order is whether a Member can read his own speech in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If it is the maiden speech, he can do so.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRIMATI UMA GAJAPATHI RAJU (Visakhapatnam): It is his maiden speech, Sir. They should not object.