

[Sh. G.M. Banatwalla]

18.00.hrs.

necessary amendment must come to provide for restrictions on holding of office after a person ceases to be Chief Election Commissioner.

My last point is with respect to the staff of the Election Commission. It is necessary that the staff of the Election Commission should be delinked from the State Government. Sometimes from the State Government, you take people on deputation; then they have to go back to their services later on. That is not a healthy practice. I do not mean to cast any aspersion. I only raised these points in order to ensure a healthy machinery, a democratic machinery and a sound machinery.

I hope that these points that I have made will receive the attention of the Government. As far as the Bill and its provisions are concerned, they are welcome; they are intended to secure independence of the Chief Election Commissioner, not that he has not acted as an independent authority. But in order to see that everybody realises also the independence of the office, I congratulate the Government and support the Bill.

---

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE(Dumdum): I want to draw your attention to something which is very important. As far as I remember, it has never happened before. A railway accident had taken place near Calcutta. The Railway Minister is here.

MR. DEPUTY- SPEAKER: He is going to make a statement *sue motu*.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:  
O. K. That is welcome.

MR. DEPUTY- SPEAKER: The Railway Minister.

#### STATEMENT BY MINISTER

#### Railway accident on Budge Budge- Sealdah Section on 6.1.91

THE MINISTER RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): With profound regret I apprise the House of an unfortunate accident that occurred on Eastern Railway at 22.26 hours on 6.1.91. While train No. 56-45 Budge Budge-Sealdah EMU Local was on run between Lake Gardens and Ballygunge on the Budge Budge-Sealdah Broad Gauge double line electrified suburban section of Sealdah Division, it collided in the near of Naihati Goods train. 9 persons including the Motorman of the EMU Local and the Guard of the goods train, lost their lives and 5 others (including one grievous) sustained injuries.

Immediately on receipt of information about the accident, the Divisional Railway Manager, Sealdah alongwith a medical team and Divisional Officers rushed to the site by road and arrived there at 23.20 hrs. The General Manager, Eastern Railway alongwith Heads of the Departments also proceeded to the site to oversee rescue and relief arrangements.

Two of the injured passengers were admitted to B.R. Singh Railway Hospital, Sealdah and the other three were taken to the R. K. Mission Hospital, Sealdah for treatment. One injured person was discharged after first aid.

Member/Electrial, Railway Board has also proceeded to the site of accident.

It is also proceeding to the site alongwith Chairman, Railway Board.

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

The Commissioner of Railway Safety, Eastern Circle will be holding a statutory

enquiry into this accident.

All Railway workers, my colleague, Shri Bhakta Charan Das and I extend heartfelt condolences to the families of persons who lost their lives in this unfortunate accident and sincere sympathies to the injured.

I trust the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

.....(*Interruptions*).....

[*Translation*]

SHRISYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN: How much amount is being provided to them as relief? ....(*Interruptions*).....

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: We will give according to the rules.

I will give the details later.....(*Interruptions*).....

[*English*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): What do you mean? There is a provision that immediate relief should be given. In every statement made this announcement is made.

SHRI AJIT PANJA (Calcutta North East): Usually one lakh of rupees are immediately given, not as per the rules. It must be given immediately.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: It is obvious that it is the system that that has failed.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: I know that the rules will take care of everything. But in respect of each of the deceased, their family should be paid one lakh of rupees

immediately. Usually it is a local train carrying people mostly lower middle class and poor people. Hence one lakh compensation should be given immediately.

AN HON. MEMBER: I support the statement made by Mr. Panja.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: It should be given immediately.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): One lakh of rupees compensation should be given immediately.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: The amount of compensation is Rs. 21 lakhs. They are demanding Rs. 1 lakh only. But all these things will have to be decided and it takes time.

[*English*]

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Immediately one lakh of rupees should be given. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Due attention will be paid to what the hon. Member has said... (*Interruptions*)...

[*English*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Just one more request. It is obvious that it is the failure of the system. So, the Minister should be requested that he should come back with a report, as to how this has happened. This is very important.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Enquiry may go on, but one lakh of rupees should be given immediately. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am sure, Mr. Panja, what you have said, the Minister has noted it and I am sure that the Minister would pay due attention to what you have expressed.

Now the house stands adjourned to

re-assemble tomorrow at 11 A. M.

18.04 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven  
of the Clock on Tuesday, January 8,  
1991/Pausa 18, 1912 (Saka)*