

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this matter and the special measures being taken to stop recurrence of such incidents in the Railways ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) to (c). There is no information or report with the Government to conclude that the incidents of teasing lady passengers by the undesirable elements among the daily commuters in trains have increased.

As per the information received from Government of Uttar Pradesh, one such incident occurred in 70 Down Triveni Express on 28.6.1985. Shri Ram Vilas Mishra, Professor of Mathematics, Rewa University, was travelling with his wife, two daughters and a son in that train. When the train left Charbagh at 16.30 Hours some monthly Season Ticket holders also entered in the same compartment and over the question of sitting with the family of Prof. Mishra started misbehaving with them. On objection by Shri Mishra, the M.S.T. holders started beating and plundering the belonging of Shri Mishra and his family members. Seeing the danger to their lives, Shri Mishra pulled out his Revolver and fired 2 shots. As a result, one culprit died on the spot and one of his co-culprits was injured. After the firing, the culprits stopped the train near Dilkusha at about 16.45 Hrs., and pulled out Shri Mishra and started beating him and also snatched his revolver. But some passengers intervened and saved Shri Mishra and restored his revolver from the culprits which was handed over to the Police. Deputy Superintendent of Police, Railway and Inspector Incharge of G.R.P. Police Station, Charbagh, Lucknow reached the place of incident at once with Force and controlled the situation. A case under Sections 395/397/307/323/354 IPC was registered. As per the report, one of the culprits died on the spot and seven other have been arrested who are in Jail. The case is presently under investigation.

Generally G.R.P. Guards are posted on night trains only. Therefore, no Police Escorts were available on the Triveni Express on the fateful day of incident, as this train leaves Lucknow at about 16.30 Hrs. during day-time. But keeping in view this incident,

one company of P.A.C. and sufficient G.R.P. Staff has been deputed by the State Government to check the activities of M.S.T. holders and by requesting the District Rail Administration, some Ticket Collectors have also been put on duty. The whole staff has been divided in several groups to check and guard the trains from the activities of M.S.T. holders. In addition to this, platform staff and Train Guards on duty have also been put on alert in this matter.

The subject 'Public Order' and 'Police' are in the State list of the VIIth Schedule of the Constitution. It is, thus constitutionally the responsibility of the State Governments to enforce law relating to the offence.

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*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at one minutes past Twelve of the clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

#### OBITUARY REFERENCE

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. members, we have just heard the news and I have to convey that Mr. Maken is no more with us. It was under tragic circumstances that this rising young man was shot dead this morning. His wife is very critical in the hospital now—As you know, Mr. Maken was a very up-coming young man, a very able parliamentarian and he made his mark. I used to refer to him while talking to other young friends whenever and wherever I travel in India, as to how young parliamentarians should work, do their homework, put in an effort and contribute in a very highly productive manner and that is what Lalit Maken was doing. Even in today's Calling Attention, his name was featuring. The way he used to tackle the problems of the trade union leadership, his efforts and his vocalness—in all these, he had made his mark. Earlier, he had also worked in the Delhi Metropolitan Council. And his was a very young age of 35. A very promising life has come to an end and I have also now to convey to you the sad news that Mrs. Geetanjali Maken has expired at 11.45.

Not only here, the young Mr. Maken has travelled far and wide to so many foreign countries and left an impression there. We convey all the helplessness and our sympathy to the bereaved family, and we shall always be feeling the loss of this very able and young parliamentarian, who is no more with us.

**THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI)** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very difficult to speak on an occasion like this. Lalit Maken was a colleague, young, promising and dynamic. In his short career, he had made a mark in politics and the labour movement and he was one of our more promising younger MPs. Just in the last few days, he had spoken out openly on what he thought were the rights of the workers; and this is the type of an MP that we have been trying to encourage. I would like, while giving my condolences to the family, to condemn this cult of violence that is springing up, and I would request that all of us put our efforts into eliminating this cult of violence.

Lalit will be remembered for his fight for the poor, for the down-trodden, for labour, for his out-spoken-ness and for the efforts he put into whatever he did. On behalf of my party, I wish that we will be able to fight this violence, that we will be able to rise above these tendencies; and we hope to get full co-operation from all sections in politics, and outside politics for this task. My condolences to all the relatives of Lalit and his wife.

**SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad)** : I share the feelings of the Leader of the House. It is a great tragedy and great loss to us. On behalf of the Opposition parties, and on behalf of our own party, I strongly condemn the terrorism which has entered into our body politic. I convey my condolences to the members of his family.

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura)** : I share the sentiments which were expressed by the Leader of the House. Shri Maken was a young parliamentarian and a trade union leader. Day before yesterday, myself and Maken, both of us spoke to the textile workers. Day before yesterday, there was squatting by the textile workers of the DCM and Birla Mills at the Boat Club. Both of us went there, and had spoken. I can remember the words he spoke there.

[Translation]

“I can and will go beyond my limits for the welfare of a worker”

[English]

And he crossed the boundaries. Yesterday, he spoke against the new Textile Policy—the policy of the Government, the policy of the party to which he belonged. He spoke against that policy also, and he fought for the workers, specially for the textile workers and against the mill-owners.

He will be remembered for his valiant struggle, for his fight for the down-trodden, for the workers and for the poor people of our country. On behalf of our party, I convey our condolences to the bereaved family.

**SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam)** : It is very unfortunate that we have lost a young, fair, dynamic and promising gentleman in our House. Actually, I came to know that he had been showered with bullets, about 16 bullets were found in his body. I think this sort of violence has to be eliminated immediately. Whatever steps the Prime Minister wants to take, he has to take them immediately because there is no protection even for Parliamentarians now. Actually, this incident brings out that in India anybody can be shot dead at any time. That should not be the situation, and I request the Prime Minister to take immediate steps.

As a trade union leader and as the President of the Textile Mazdoor Congress, he was doing wonderful work. Actually, only for the cause of the labour, he had spoken so many times in this House. So, on behalf of AIADMK, we express our profound sorrow and regret and offer condolences to the bereaved family and relatives.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur)** : Speaker, you announced the sad news to this House that our colleague, Shri Lalit Maken is dead. With the pause of a few second, you told the House that Mrs. Maken is also dead. It is given only to a few couples to share life together, share bullets together, share death together, and we all share the agony of their life.

[Prof. Madhu Dandwate]

You may recall that after the last session of Parliament, all the Parliamentary Correspondents, who took the review of the session of Parliament, specifically mentioned the name of this young Parliamentarian, Lalit Maken. He rose above the Party and he stood by the people and probably died for the people. Such people do not die because they leave their shining memory behind to inspire others. I feel deeply sad today, those of us, old Members of Parliament, probably, it would have been in the fitness of things that men like Lalit Maken could have made obituary reference to people like us, but as tragedy would have it, the older amongst us have to pay tribute to the younger who joined us so late and passed away so early. What a gap of time ?

You rightly reminded us that today on the order Paper there is the name of Shri Lalit Maken calling the attention of the Minister. He called the attention of the Minister, but death called his attention and snatched him. So, we will not hear his voice again. But such voices are never muffled; they will remain to be echoed over and again, so long as we stand by the people. I must tell you as the Speaker of the House that those of us who take up the peoples' cause, participate in peoples' movements, participate in working class and peasants' movements, this itself has become an occupational hazard, but the brave Parliamentarians must never deter from the path of raising peoples' issues no matter what will be the cost and that is the only message that probably the dead body of Lalit Maken will leave behind, and it will echo and live in this House; if it continues to echo, that will be the best tribute that this House can offer to the memory of Lalit Maken.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) :** Sir, tragedy has struck us suddenly within a few minutes, something that we could not expect at all but I suppose we should expect such things now from the way that things are moving in this country. Shri Lalit Maken was speaking here only yesterday in his usual way. I would like just to tell the House that at the end of the last session I was interviewed by one of the journals which come out in this Capital and perhaps because I am a senior Member, I was asked to name

two or three Members among the young M.P.s who had impressed me most. And I must say that the first name I mentioned was of Lalit Maken though he did not belong to my party at all because I had seen his performance here on the floor of the House and I also knew it outside the House. We may have some differences, that is not the point, for I do not consider him only as a fellow-Parliamentarian but as a fellow trade unionist also. And I know how militant he was and how fearlessly and with the courage of his conviction he was fighting against the policies of the mill owners who were exploiting the workers, as he had very correctly highlighted in this house many times.

He was a young man, his wife must have been younger than him. I believe they have some little children also who have been orphaned within the space of a few minutes. So, I feel, as you said, Sir that it is not only the question of shock and sorrow, but there is also a feeling of helplessness and that is the most serious thing now. It is not enough — excuse my saying so— as the Prime Minister said, to condemn. Of course, we condemn, there is no question. This type of violence and killings have to be condemned, but is it enough to condemn? We have seriously to think, all of us together, how steps are going to be taken to put down this method of eliminating one's opponents and the report of the killing that we got just now, the manner of the killing, the daring with which it is done in broad day light, the type of weapons used, show that these are professional people. They may be hired by somebody and they are professional people on the prowl. Here in the heart of the capital city, if they can get away with a crime like this, an abominable crime like this it is not a question of a Parliamentarian's life being ended, what is the worth of a Parliamentarian's life? Then nobody in this country will be safe at all. So, we must do something about it.

As far as Lalit Maken is concerned, I have always admired his very outspoken views. He was a fearless critic of whatever he considered to be wrong. It may be that some people in his party did not always like the way he was speaking. I liked it. Very often I found that we were sharing similar types of views. But he was fearless. He had

the courage of his conviction. And he was not afraid to speak out and as the Prime Minister said, that is the type of Members of Parliament that we need.

I am really very much grieved and very much shocked. On behalf of my party I convey our deepest condolences to whoever are the surviving members of his family. I do not know anybody, except his father-in-law, who I believe, is also in town. We convey our deepest condolences and we hope that the cause for which Lalit Maken was speaking and fighting here will be carried forward by those who have the interests of the downtrodden at heart.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is on an occasion like this that one does not get appropriate words to express the sympathy to the people who got bereaved. Mr. Lalit Maken, as you said, was a very able Parliamentarian. But as far as I knew him I always felt that he was the man who felt the prick of his conscience. And in this Parliament, he paid the price for feeling the prick of his conscience.

On behalf of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference I condemn this heinous crime, I must say, against the nation because Lalit Maken symbolised in him the aspirations of the down-trodden people of this country. I also express my deepest sympathy and condolences to the bereaved family.

This is an occasion when we must take stock of the situation very seriously. You, Sir, have said that while we condemn this heinous crime and we express our condolences to the bereaved family, this is an occasion of helplessness. But we must find some solution to the problem. And we must, all of us irrespective of party affiliations, rise to the occasion and put a halt to all kinds of violence in the country.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : On behalf of my Party, the Muslim League, I rise to express our deep grief and share the sentiments expressed in the House on the sad demise of our colleague, Shri Lalit Maken.

Such are the occasions when one is stunned. Every heart weeps. All sentiments,

every intellect revolts—revolts against the cult of violence. We all strongly condemn this cult of violence. But at the same time, we all pledge ourselves to facing this cult for the elimination of this cult.

We express our deepest sorrow, extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved. And let us use this great tragedy as another occasion for us to re-iterate our determination to wipe this cult of violence out from this country.

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, like us, Shri Lalit Maken was elected to the Lok Sabha for the first time, but in spite of his being in the ruling party, his outlook towards the workers and towards solving people's problems, his way of expressing his views in this House and attracting Government's attention was unparalleled. He always worked with that point of view before him. He has made a place for himself in history. We are about 500 Hon. Members in this Lok Sabha and Shri Maken will always be remembered as an active Parliamentarian. We are pained all the more because he was the son-in-law of the Governor of Andhra Pradesh. I on behalf of my party and on my own behalf express condolence on his untimely death and convey my sympathy to this family.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will convey to the bereaved family the condolences of this august House, and as a mark of respect, we shall stand in silence for a short while.  
12.25 hrs.

*(The Members then stood in silence for a shortwhile)*

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned, as a mark of respect, and will meet tomorrow at 11 A.M.

12.26 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday the 1st August, 1985/Sravana 10, 1907 (Saka).*