

- (2) A copy of the Registration of Elections (Second Amendment) Rules, 1987 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1128(E) in Gazette of India, dated the 29th December, 1987 under sub-section (3) of section 28 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950. [Placed in Library. See No.LT-5728/88]

12.09 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS  
FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

**Eleventh Report**

[English]

CH. RAM PRAKASH (Ambala): I beg to present the Eleventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister is making a statement. If you shout like this, you cannot hear him. Afterwards don't blame me. If you are interested, listen to the Minister's statement.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara): We are very much interested in the Minister's statement.

12.10 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: BANDH ON 15TH  
MARCH, 1988

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now Mr. Buta Singh. (Interruptions) Order, please.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir: I rise to inform the House about the factual position with regard to Bandh on 15th March. The call for Bandh was given jointly

by some political parties to be observed on 15th March, 1988. This call also coincided with the call for 3-day strike given by some Unions in Central Public Sector Undertakings from 14th March. I am happy to inform the House that in spite of the call given by these parties, life generally in the country was normal on that day.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please.... order. (Interruptions)

S. BUTA SINGH: I am happy to inform the House that in spite of the call given by these parties, life generally in the country was normal on that day except for the States of West Bengal, Kerala and to some extent in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Impact would have been negligible, had the call for strike by the Central Public Sector Undertakings not been given.

State Government offices did not function in West Bengal and Kerala and were partially affected in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh due to the stand taken by these State Governments. In the remaining States, the attendance of the State Government employees as well as the Central Government employees was normal (Interruptions)...

Kindly listen. You should listen to facts... (Interruptions) Even in Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, the attendance in some of the Central Government offices was reported to be 40 to 50 per cent. In West Bengal, about 10 to 15 per cent of the Central Government employees attended offices by staying overnight in their offices. Had these State Governments made arrangements for providing adequate public transport facilities, it is more than likely that the attendance in Central Government offices as well as in State Government offices in these States would have been much higher. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please... order.

S. BUTA SINGH: Please listen now; these are the facts. (Interruptions) ..... As the hon. Members might have noticed, life

in Delhi was absolutely normal....  
(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour):  
See these photographs of lathi charge on  
women demonstrators... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen.  
First listen to the statement.

S. BUTA SINGH: I am coming to that. I  
know. I am coming to that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: First listen to the  
Minister's statement.

S. BUTA SINGH: Even in Haryana, at-  
tendance in Government offices was nor-  
mal.

In West Bengal, Kerala, Karnataka and  
Andhra Pradesh, public transport especially  
in urban areas was totally withdrawn and  
limited private transport was plying in Kar-  
nataka and Andhra Pradesh only.  
(Interruptions)....

These are the facts.... (Interruptions)

It seems apparently, no attempt was  
made by these State Governments to en-  
sure the availability of public transport fa-  
cilities for obvious reasons. In rest of the  
country, road transport services were run-  
ning more or less normally.

Schools and colleges were closed in  
West Bengal, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and  
Karnataka. In Tamil Nadu, attendance in  
Government Colleges was low, and private  
schools were closed. In Bihar, most of the  
educational institutions were open, and ex-  
aminations were conducted as per sched-  
ule..... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura):  
Many people were killed in police firing.

S. BUTA SINGH: Even in West Bengal,  
examinations under Central Board of Sec-  
ondary Education were conducted. In rest  
of the country, educational institutions  
functioned normally.

Rail services were normal in Northern,

Western, Central and North-Eastern zones.  
However, in the Eastern zone, train ser-  
vices were totally suspended in West Ben-  
gal except the Calcutta Metro which ran  
normally. There was some disruption in  
Southern (Kerala area), North-East Frontier  
(West Bengal areas), South-Eastern and  
South-Central zones. Interference/picke-  
ting etc. by Bandh supporters was noticed  
extensively in Kerala and West Bengal.  
Some minor incidents also took place in  
Andhra Pradesh and Assam. No railway  
property was damaged at any place.

Indian Airlines operated all its sched-  
uled flights from Bombay, Delhi, Madras,  
Hyderabad and Bangalore.

AN HON. MEMBER: Except Calcutta.

S. BUTA SINGH: Three additional char-  
tered flights were also operated from Delhi  
to Guwahati and back. Though IAC flights  
to Calcutta from Delhi, Madras and Bom-  
bay took place, no flight originated from  
Calcutta. All the scheduled Vayudoot ser-  
vices from Calcutta were operated. Simi-  
larly Air India and other international carri-  
ers operated all international flights. Cal-  
cutta airport also handled 3 international  
flights which had been diverted to it from  
Dhaka. There was 100 per cent attendance  
in all the 96 airports including Calcutta  
Airport.

Telecommunication facilities worked  
normally except in West Bengal and Kerala.  
Similarly, post offices functioned normally  
in most of the country except in West Ben-  
gal and Kerala. Movement of postal vans  
was, however, affected in Karnataka, Tamil  
Nadu, Kerala, Assam and Andhra Pradesh.  
Port operations were normal in Bombay,  
Madras, Paradeep, Tuticorin, Visakhapat-  
nam and Kandla. Port operations were also  
normal in Calcutta though attendance of  
the class III employees was around 30 to  
35 per cent.

Banking services were seriously affected  
in majority of the States on account of 3  
day strike call. However, State Bank of In-  
dia personnel did not take part in the strike  
and the S.B.I. branches functioned nor-  
mally.

In spite of six day strike call in the Coal Industry as well as the call for Bandh, attendance and production in Coal India Ltd. was around 55 to 60 per cent. Similarly, in Neyvelli Lignite Corporation, production was normal though attendance was low. The production and attendance in Southern Coking Coal Ltd. was, however, greatly affected.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur):  
It was more than 190 per cent!

S. BUTA SINGH: I said it was greatly affected. Why are you mis-reading my statement?

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY  
(Midnapore): Who can mislead you? You misled everybody!

S. BUTA SINGH: In Steel sector, Durgapur was affected while as attendance in Bokaro, Bhilai and Rourkela was 75 per cent, 90 per cent and 55 per cent respectively. Power stations and offices under the Department of Atomic Energy functioned normally. Power generation and supply was normal throughout the country. *(Interruptions)*

In the Petroleum sector, oil production activities were reported to be normal and all Refineries functioned normally except at Barauni, Mathura and Haldia which were partially affected. *(Interruptions)*

Some incidents of firing have been reported: two in Bihar, one in Andhra Pradesh, two in Tamil Nadu, one in Rajasthan and one in Assam.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara):  
What about Kerala? Two persons were shot dead. You have not included it in the statement. Congress I instigated firing.

S. BUTA SINGH: One person is reported to have died in Bihar as a result of police firing. A few cases of arson of vehicles and stone pelting have been reported from Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Bihar.

At 11.40 hours, information was re-

ceived at Police Station, Connaught Place that DTC buses were being stoned by some women near Plaza bus stand. Patrolling staff and SHO Connaught Place reached the spot immediately. Two DTC buses and one private bus had their wind screens smashed. About 20 women and men led by a women leader were shouting slogans in support of Bandh. They had blocked the entire road by forming a chain by holding hands with each other and some amongst them were still throwing stones at vehicles. The entire traffic had been blocked and the shopkeepers had started pulling down their shutters in panic. The SHO Connaught Place warned them to desist from these acts and to disperse forthwith. Repeated directions of SHO were ignored and consequently with the help of lady Police the agitators were arrested and taken to Police Station, Connaught Place. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You beat them up!

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: You try to see the photographs. *(Interruptions)*

S. BUTA SINGH: I am reading a statement. Do not disturb me. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): The Minister may explain why no women Police were used and why men Police were used. *(Interruptions)*

S. BUTA SINGH: Why do you not listen? I am saying all this. You listen.

During this episode, Shri Chander Bhan, the driver of DTC bus was injured by a stone which hit him on the right side of his head. When the rioters disembarked from the bus near Connaught Place Police Station, one constable was surrounded by several women led by Smt. Brinda Karat and assaulted. His uniform was torn and he was physically beaten. The constable managed to break free from the mob with the help of lady police. In the melee, it appears Smt. Brindakarath also sustained injury in her right fore-arm and knee. Two constables were injured and were admitted in the hospital. Cases have been registered under

the IPC and Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you feel you are not satisfied, you give a privilege motion.

(*Interruptions*)

S. BUTA SINGH: I am making a statement on this. You first listen to me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: First you listen.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You carry on, Mr. Minister.

S. BUTA SINGH: Unfortunately you do not listen. You listen. (*Interruptions*)

You listen to this paragraph.

A complaint was received from Shrimati Amarjit Kaur, and office bearer of CPI alleging assault on Shrimati Brinda Karat by a constable. Another complaint was subsequently received from Shrimati Brinda Karat. A preliminary inquiry to establish the facts and circumstances of the alleged incident has been ordered to be conducted by ACP (Headquarters), New Delhi District. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa): What will the ACP do? We want a judicial inquiry. (*Interruptions*)

S. BUTA SINGH: In all 12 women and 22 men were arrested under various sections of law and eight women were detained under section 65 of Delhi Police Act and subsequently released. (*Interruptions*)

It is unfortunate that in a democratic set up some political parties have taken to undemocratic steps particularly when large parts of the country are reeling under the onslaught of severe drought. While it is the basic right of every citizen in this country to express his opinion for or against the Government and its policies, no democratic system can function if there are deliberate attempts to disrupt the normal life of the

people. State Governments have an obligation under the Constitution to ensure the smooth functioning of the State and Central Government offices as well as providing efficient public services for the welfare of the people of the State. And yet in some of the States ruled by the Opposition Parties, the State Governments disregarded these constitutional obligations. As the Honourable Members are aware, except for these few States, there was hardly any response from the rest of the country to the call for Bandh. Even in these States, in certain areas, but for the withdrawal of State transport services by the State Governments, the result might have been different.

Attempts by the miscreants to disrupt train and vehicular traffic in some States were foiled and some of the anti-social elements had to be detained. It is but natural that to prevent lawlessness and destruction of public property, preventive measures in a selective manner had to be taken. Some preventive arrests were made in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and some other States. However, as per our reports, most of them have been released or are being released. I appeal to this Honourable House to condemn the irresponsible acts by anti-social elements in some of the States. I take this opportunity to congratulate people of this country in general and workers and employees in particular through this House for rejecting this undemocratic call for Bandh and thereby expressing their total lack of confidence in the policies pursued by these political parties. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: We want a discussion on it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa): We have given a notice under rule 193. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I can't allow it. (*Interruptions*)

12.27 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Basudeb Acharia and some other hon. Members left the House.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: We want a discussion on it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Give it in writing. We will see.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: I have already given a notice in the morning before ten O'clock.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bhagat.

12.28 hrs.

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing 21st March, 1988, will consist of:

- (1) Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
- (2) Discussion on the Resolutions seeking disapproval of the following Ordinances together with consideration and passing of the Bills, as passed by Rajya Sabha, replacing them.
  - (a) The Major Port Trusts (Amendment) Ordinance, 1988.
  - (b) The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance, 1987.
  - (c) The Delhi Administration (Amendment) Ordinance, 1987.
- (3) Consideration and passing of:
  - (a) The Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tri-

bunals) Amendment Bill, 1987.

(b) The Constitution (Fifty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 1988, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

- (4) General discussion on the Punjab Budget for 1988-89
- (5) Discussion and voting on:
  - (a) Demands for Grants on Account (Punjab) for 1988-89.
  - (b) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Punjab) for 1987-88.
- (6) General Discussion on the Tamil Nadu Budget for 1988-89.
- (7) Discussion and voting on:
  - (a) Demands for Grants on Account (Tamil Nadu) for 1988-89.
  - (b) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Tamil Nadu) for 1987-88.
- (8) Discussion and voting of the Demands for Grants under the control of the following Ministries:
  - (a) Human Resource Development.
  - (b) Textiles.

[Translation]

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna): The following item may be included in the next week's agenda.

The Satna Parliamentary Constituency is a backward area where Railway Department has not made much development. Satna Rewa railway line has been sanctioned but the pace of work is very slow. There is no direct link between Satna and Bhopal, the capital of the State. The 133/134 train which operates thrice a