

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed".

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, the statement by the Minister of Railways.

17.26 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : LEVEL CROSSING ACCIDENT ON SURENDRA NAGAR-WANKANAR SECTION ON 3rd MAY, 1984

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURI) : It is with a heavy heart that I have to bring to the notice of this House, the occurrence of an accident at an unmanned level crossing involving a Matador Van with passengers and the train engine of 17 Dn. Saurashtra Janata Express at about 0900 hrs. today between Vagdia and Than stations on Surendra Nagar-Wankanar section of Western Railway. The Matador Van Driver in the face of the approaching train, attempted to rush through the unmanned level crossing No. 67/C. So far 12 persons travelling in the road vehicle have died, of which 8 died, on the spot and 4 later, while the 12 occupants received injuries and were immediately rushed to the nearest Sarvanjanic Hospital, Than, and latter to the Civil Hospital at Limbdi.

Prima facie, the cause of the accident is due to the rashness and negligence of the van driver who tried to cross the unmanned

level crossing in the face of the approaching train. The level crossing has all the indications, warning signals for the road vehicle users.

The General Manager, Chief Traffic Safety Superintendent, Divisional Railway Manager and other officers of Western Railway have already proceeded to the site.

Ex-gratia payment to those who have been injured as well as for such of those who died, has been arranged as per my instructions.

It is very unfortunate that the accidents at unmanned level crossings sometimes do occur. While I have taken steps to get the comparatively busier among these manned, it is not possible, as the Hon'ble Members will appreciate, to completely man all the level crossings as the number is very large i.e., above 22,000 approximately. We have also sought the help of the State Governments for stricter enforcement of Motor Vehicle Rules at all levels. I have myself written to the Chief Ministers to help the Railways out in this matter and to bring home to the road users the danger of darting across the unmanned level crossings at the last moment in the face of the approaching trains.

17.28 hrs.

PUNJAB STATE LEGISLATURE (DELEGATION OF POWERS) BILL

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We take up next item. Shri P. Venkatasubbiah.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to confer on the President the power of the Legislature of the State of Punjab to make laws, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the House is aware that the proclamation dated 6-10-1983 made by the President under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Punjab, *inter-alia*, provides that the power of the State Legislature shall be exercisable by or under the authority of Parliament. Under