

[Shri Vidhya Charan Shukla]

As far as the question of Rs. 10 crores scheme is concerned, as far as my Ministry is concerned, I have not seen any such proposal or any demand from the Kerala Government. They may have given it to some other Department but when it comes to my Ministry, I will certainly look into it.

On 11th February, 1981 at about 02.52 as far as public distribution system is concerned and, therefore, we have no hesitation in helping them as far as possible in this matter.

About implementation of laws, the Hon. Lady Member conceded that their Government are not implementing these laws. But she asked whether in other States where the laws are being implemented, results are produced. The answer is yes. If we had not implemented these laws in other States, the conditions would have been worse.

AN HON. MEMBER: Public distribution system should be strengthened.

15.32 hrs.

STATEMENT RE TRAINS ACCIDENTS BETWEEN KATTANDA PATTI AND VANIYAMBADI STATIONS AND BETWEEN DURAUNDHA AND CHAI-NWA STATIONS

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (नई दिल्ली):
सभापति जी, रेल मंत्री वक्तव्य देने जा रहे हैं दुर्घटनाओं के बारे में। क्या उन्होंने यह पता लगा लिया है कि वक्तव्य तैयार करने के बाद तो कोई और दुर्घटना नहीं हुई है? . . . (व्यवधान)

रेल मंत्री (श्री केंदार पांडे) जिसकी आप चर्चा करते हैं उसकी भी चर्चा इसमें है (व्यवधान) . . .

सभापति महोदय : सुन तो लीजिए फिर कहलायेगा।

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI KEDAR PANDEY): Sir, With deep anguish, I apprise the House of two unfortunate train accidents which took place on the Southern and North Eastern Railways on 11th February, 1981 and 15th February, 1981, respectively.

On 11th February, 1981 at about 02.52 hours, 20 Up Trivandrum-Madras Mail collided with the rear of Jolarpettai—Tondiarpet Up empty oil tank special between Kettandapatti and Vaniyambadi stations on the Jolarpettai-Madras double line broad gauge section, about 200 kilometres from Madras. As a result, the engine of 20 Up Mail and 7 coaches next to it derailed of which 5 capsized, fouling the Down line. In the meantime, 69 Down Madras-Erode Yercaud Express came from the opposite direction and collided with the derailed coaches of 20 Up Mail. Consequently, the engine and 3 coaches of 69 Down also derailed of which 2 capsized.

I regret to say that 24 persons were killed and another 52 injured of whom 14 sustained grievous injuries and 38 simple injuries. Included among the 23 dead bodies so far identified, were those of the Driver, Assistant Driver and Under Guard of the ill fated 20 Up Mail, the Guard of the tank special and the Under Guard of 69 Down Express. They had many years of service ahead of them.

On receipt of information about the accident, Medical Vans from Jolarpettai, Arakkonam and Madras were rushed to the site. Railway doctors from Katpadi, Jolarpettai, Persambur, Bangalore and Madras also proceeded to the site immediately. The services of Civil doctors from Vaniyambadi, Vellors and Madras were also availed of. The General Manager, Southern Railway, accompanied by Heads of Departments rushed to the site to supervise relief and rescue operations. Minister of State for Railway accompanied by Chairman, Railway Board and Member (Mechanical), also proceeded to the site of accident.

The second accident took place between Duraundha and Chainwa stations on Gorakhpur-Chhapra section of North Eastern Railway on 15th February, 1981. At about 21.22 hours on that day, train No. 32 Down Fast Passenger collided with the rear of 2 Down A.T. Mail which, it is reported, had been stopped between these two stations due to alarm chain pulling. As a result, 5 rear most coaches of 2 Down A.T. Mail and the train engine and 5 adjacent coaches of 32 Down fast Passenger derailed.

According to the information so far received, in this accident, 14 persons were killed and 7 sustained injuries.

On receipt of information, Medical Vans from Sonpur, Gorakhpur and Varanashi, accompanied by Railway doctors were rushed to the site. The General Manager, North Eastern Railway, accompanied by Chief Medical Officer and other Heads of Departments also rushed to the site by road. Member (Engineering), Railway Board also proceeded to the site of the accident.

Ex-gratia relief has been paid to the next of kin of the dead and to the injured.

Both these accidents are being inquired into by the Commission of Railway Safety, who function independently under the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation. While the inquiry into the first accident commenced on 13-2-81, the inquiry into the second accident is expected to commence tomorrow, that is, on 18-2-81.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: rose

श्री जार्ज फर्नांडीस (मुजफ्फरपुर): इस पर बहस होना बहुत जरूरी है। इस मामले को ऐसे ही नहीं छोड़ा जा सकता है। मंत्री महोदय ने नीलाचल एक्सप्रेस के एक्सीडेंट की बात नहीं कही है। (व्यवधान) आप इस पर बहस के लिए समय

दीजिए। इसको बजट के साथ न जोड़िये। इस पर अलग बहस का मौका दीजिए। (व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will bring this matter to the notice of the hon. Speaker to have a discussion on the subject.....I will bring it to his notice.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Railway Minister accept it?... (Interruptions) आप इस पर बहस को स्वीकार कर लीजिए।

श्री मनीराम बागड़ी (हिसार) : श्री पांडे बड़े शरीफ और भले आदमी हैं। जब इतने लोग मरे हैं तो उन्हें फरागदिली से इस पर चर्चा करवाना चाहिये। उन्हें खुद खड़े होकर कहना चाहिये कि इस पर बहस की जाये। (व्यवधान)

श्री जार्ज फर्नांडीस : आपने नया रेलवे बोर्ड बनाया है। वह क्या कर रहा है? आपने पुराने रेलवे बोर्ड को डिसमिस किया और नया रेलवे बोर्ड बनाया। नया रेलवे बोर्ड रोज एक एक्सीडेंट करवा रहा है, सैकड़ों लोग मरवा रहा है, कर्मचारी मर रहे हैं, (व्यवधान) आप रेलवे बोर्ड के अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही कर रहे हैं? (व्यवधान)

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : जब तक मंत्री महोदय रेलवे बोर्ड के अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध कार्यवाही नहीं करेंगे, तब तक स्थिति में सुधार नहीं होगा। (व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. I am pleading on your behalf. Gentlemen; why don't you allow me to speak?

Mr. Minister, these gentlemen are anxious and they want a discussion on these accidents and they want

[Mr. Chairman]

some time is fixed. So what have you to say about it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): Sir, these matters are discussed in the Business Advisory Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you, Gentlemen, give a notice for a discussion, then he will agree for that.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: We have given a notice:.. (*Interruptions*) Sack the Railway Board.

SHRI C. T. DHANDAPANI (Polachi): To help the Government and the Minister. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN NADAR (Trivandrum): *Kya* improvement *hua*?

SHRI KEDAR PANDEY: I have no objection if a date is fixed for a full discussion on this matter.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, on a point of order. The hon. Minister, in his statement, referred to two railway accidents, but he did not refer to the accident of the Neelachal Express which was derailed yesterday and five bogies were involved. I would like to know why no mention was made about it.

SHRI KEDAR PANDAY: Nobody has been injured and nobody is dead.

गाड़ी डीरेल हुई लेकिन उसमें जानी नुकसान नहीं हुआ ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : आपको बताना चाहिये था ।

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Sir, does the Minister mean to say

that only when persons die or get injured, he will report to the House?

MR. CHAIRMAN: What he means is that that was not a serious thing and that it was not necessary to mention here.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: He wants people to die—for reporting to Parliament.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER (Delhi Sadar): It looks very strange. I say that Shri George Fernandes is responsible for blowing up the trains.

15.45 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. AGITATION BY LOCO RUNNING STAFF

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI KEDAR PANDEY): This is my second statement regarding the Loco Running Staff agitation.

Sir, I wish to make a statement regarding the recent illegal action by an irresponsible section of the loco running staff in some areas of the Indian Railways.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Let him make a factual statement. We feel that you are making an irresponsible statement. You give us the facts only but do not call everybody as irresponsible. It is not fair to the workers when they are not here to defend themselves. Sir, he is making a statement calling the workers as irresponsible. I say that your Railway Board is irresponsible. Why should he call the workers irresponsible? We will not allow that. What do you mean by calling them as irresponsible. (*Interruptions*) The Minister must make a factual statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All of you please sit down.