

[Shri Raj Kishan Dawn]

only one small post office in the port area

MR CHAIRMAN. Will you please wind up now?

SHRI RAJ KRISHNA DAWN I want more time

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA (Serampore) He is speaking on the important aspects

MR CHAIRMAN Under Rule 377 you should take two or three minutes You have already taken 15 minutes Please wind up

*SHRI RAJ KRISHNA DAWN I would therefore conclude by strongly urging upon the Government to make a thorough probe to find out if there is any conspiracy in the matter or not and also urge that early steps should be taken for proper and full utilisation of the capacity that is lying idle at present at the port of Haldia

(11) REPORTED DANGER TO LIVES AND PROPERTY OF INDIANS LIVING IN BEIRUT

SHRI BHAGAT RAM (Phillaur) On February 12, 1978, S/Shri Sohan Singh S/o Prithvi Singh aged 50 years, Joginder Singh urf Jogi and Mangal Singh, both in their thirties were picked up from their home in Beirut by Syrian forces and have not been seen since People returning from Beirut have reported that the lives and property of Indian citizens are endangered by the kidnapping by the Syrian forces who are holding a number of Indian citizens prisoners, a number are reported wounded and some have been killed The Embassy is unable to protect the lives and property of Indian citizens from the Syrian forces The Minister may please make a statement in the House regarding the failure of the Embassy to protect Indian nationals the measures being taken by the Government to remedy the situation, the whereabouts of missing persons and a list of those killed and of the property destroyed

(11) Situation in Banaras Hindu University

श्री विनायक प्रसाद यादव (सहरसा) सभापति महोदया, विगत 3 मार्च को बनारस हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय के कूट और उत्तेजित छात्रों ने विगत शाम में विश्वविद्यालय कैम्पस में हुई घटनाओं के विरोध में बहा रेक्टर से जबर्दस्ती हस्तिका लिखवाया और उन्हें घेरा।

उत्तेजित छात्रों ने विगत शाम रमण होटल में पुलिस द्वारा बेरहमी से छात्रों को पीटने की शिकायत की और अब वे पुलिस के खिलाफ प्रबलम्ब कार्यवाही करने की माग कर रहे हैं।

यूनिवर्सिटी अधिकारियों ने उक्त घटना के बाद सभी कालेजों को बन्द कर दिया है।

यूनिवर्सिटी यूनियन के नेता श्री चन्वल कुमार आमरण अनशन पर हैं और छात्रों का अनन्तोष चरम सीमा पर है। यदि यही स्थिति रही तो छात्र अनन्तोष ममचे देश में फैलेगा।

सभापति जी, बनारस हिन्दू यूनिवर्सिटी की स्थिति भयानक है। एक साल में तीन-तीन बाइस चासलर बदले गये। कई महीनों से कोई बाइस चासलर नहीं है। छात्रों की भीड़ एडमोशन के लिए पटुच रही है लेकिन उनका नामांकन नहीं हो रहा है। पढ़ने लिखने के बाद छात्रों को रोजगार नहीं मिलता है और जो छात्र पढ़ने लिखने के लिए यूनिवर्सिटी में जाते हैं उनका नामांकन नहीं हो रहा है। जब इन बातों के लिए छात्र उद्वेगित होते हैं तो पुलिस होस्टलों में घुस कर छात्रों की पिटाई करती है। यदि यही स्थिति रही तो वह समय दूर नहीं जब हड़ताल देश में विस्फोटिक स्थिति पैदा

*The original speech was delivered in Bengali

हो जाए। अतः सरकार से मागह है कि
 अधिकतर इस पर उचित कार्रवाई वह
 करे।

14.25 hrs.

**RAILWAY BUDGET, 1978-79—GEN-
 ERAL DISCUSSION**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we take up
 general discussion on the Railway
 Budget. Mr. Qureshi.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI
 (Anantnag): Madam Chairman, I am
 really in a fix whether I should con-
 gratulate the hon. Minister for Rail-
 ways for presenting the Budget, but
 I have to be realistic. I have to give
 him bouquets for the good work he
 has done and not brickbats for the
 bad work he is doing.

I am now drawing his attention to
 the last page of his speech wherein
 he has stated discussing about the pro-
 gress he has made in the working of
 the Railways:

"This has been possible by the hard
 work put in by all categories of
 Railwaymen and their unstinted co-
 operation in improving railway ope-
 rations. The commendable perfor-
 mance of the Railwaymen during
 the current financial year, has ex-
 ploded the myth that only enforced
 discipline of the Emergency Era
 could achieve better results."

I think, he has not been very fair to
 the previous Government on what he
 inherited from that Government. I
 would like to refresh his memory
 from his own document. Here is the
 Annual Report & Accounts for 1976-
 77 where it is said:

"Railways' performance during
 1976-77, both physical and financial,
 was far better when compared to

the previous year. A significant in-
 crease in both traffic hauled and
 passengers booked, aided by better
 efficiency and tighter expenditure
 control enabled the Railways to
 close the year with a sizeable sur-
 plus of Rs. 87.24 crores."

I think, this is the period, when he
 had hardly taken over the Ministry.

In the same booklet it is said fur-
 ther:

"The performance of the Railways
 during the year was a testimony to
 the high calibre of the men and
 women employed at all levels and
 their unflinching commitment to the
 tasks assigned to them."

I think, it is high time that he came
 out from the hangover of the Emer-
 gency and gave Parliament the correct
 assessment of things, as to what he
 took over from the previous Govern-
 ment.

I would like to remind him—he
 knows that the year 1976-77 was
 really a turning point for the Rail-
 ways. What was happening in 1974-
 75, I will go into when I discuss the
 problems of labour and the Unions in
 the Railways. But in 1976-77, the
 gross traffic receipt rose by 12.5 per
 cent, and the railway freight traffic
 touched a record high in 1976-77. The
 total revenue-earning freight traf-
 fic amounted to 212.27 million tonnes,
 which was 15.48 million tonnes more
 than in the previous year and 6.27
 million tonnes above the target which
 was fixed for 1976-77. I would re-
 mind the hon. Minister that, while
 taking credit for the good job he is
 doing now, he should not forget that
 the legacy left by the previous Gov-
 ernment was really something which
 was very very remarkable. It is
 hopped from the hon. Minister that he
 will maintain the efficiency and the
 progress of the Railways as he in-
 herited it from the previous Govern-
 ment....