

of the House. Now we come to the main motion, on the report of the BAC. The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Third Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 19th March, 1980."

*The motion was adopted*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Mr. Jaffer Sharief. He has to make a statement.

13.44 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. DERAILMENT OF BARAK VALLEY EXPRESS ON NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): Sir, with deep sense of regret I rise to inform the House that about 04.30 hours on 20th March, 1980 while 11 Down Barak Valley Express was on run between Dihakho and Mupa stations on Lumding—Badarpur Hill section of Northeast Frontier Railway, 4 coaches next to the engine derailed of which one capsized. According to the information so far available 8 persons are feared dead, 11 sustained grievous injuries and 13 simple injuries.

Immediately on receipt of information, medical relief van accompanied by Medical Superintendent, doctors, Divisional Railway Manager, and other railway officers, was rushed to the site. *Ex-gratia* relief has been arranged.

Chairman, Railway Board and Member Engineering, have flown to the site of accident.

I am sure the House will join me in conveying our heartfelt sympathies to the members of the bereaved families.

13.46 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Samar Mukherjee.

(1) REPORTED AGITATION BY YUVA CONGRESS AND CHHATRA PARISHAD IN WEST BENGAL DISRUPTING SUPPLIES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES TO ASSAM.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): In the morning, there was a hot discussion and the Speaker expressed the view that on this rule 377 matter, the Prime Minister will make a statement here, but, unfortunately, she is not here. In the House, many members demanded a special debate. And, without giving up our right to demand a full discussion on this issue, I am reading this statement under rule 377.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What you stated now, you have not stated in this written thing under rule 377.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: In the morning regarding this rule 377 matter, the Speaker expressed a desire, that the Prime Minister should reply.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is not found here.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV (Azamgarh): Before reading he is giving the background.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: It was supposed that the Prime Minister will give the reply, though it is not binding on her.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That only will come in the report.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: That I know. But the Speaker expressed a desire. The Prime Minister was present here. In her presence, the hon. Speaker said 'we hope the Prime Minister will make a statement on this'.