

has been under consideration of Government for quite a long time; and

(b) if so, when a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Attention is invited to the answer given on the 11th December, 1970 to unstarred question No. 4316 asked by Shri Vidya Dhar Bajpai.

(b) The matter is now engaging the attention of the Third Pay Commission who have in their questionnaire invited comments on this item among others.

12.00 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE**

**REPORTED BLOWING UP OF RAILWAY
TRACK ON EASTERN RAILWAY BY
PAKISTANI SABOTEURS**

SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI (Berhampore) : I call the attention of the Minister of Railways to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :—

The reported blowing up of Railway track between Majdia and Burnpur in the Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway by explosive mines placed by Pakistani saboteurs.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : Sir, at about 05 55 hrs. on 13.7.1977, when 730 Up—Engine and Brake Van only—passed over the track beyond the Kilometre Post No. 108/6 towards Banpur, the Train Guard heard a loud explosion behind him. The Guard came to Banpur Station and reported the matter to the Assistant Station Master on duty. The Guard then went back to the place of occurrence with the Engine and Brake Van and saw that one length of rail on the Up Main Line, i.e. the western rail, was bent vertically about 10 inches and 2 CST—9 plates and 2 tie bars

were broken, by the explosion. There was a hole in the ground about 3 feet in diameter and about 2 feet deep. The Guard deputed the fireman of the Engine at the place of occurrence to stop any train coming on that line and went back to Banpur and informed the Station Master of all the details. The Station Master informed all concerned including Military authorities at Krishnanagar.

The place of occurrence is at Kilometre Post No. 108/6 in between Majdia and Banpur on the Up Main Line and it lies within one mile from Changkhalu Border, that is to say, East Pakistan Border diagonally across the field north east of the place of occurrence.

The Border Security Force came to the place of occurrence and recovered one unexploded anti-tank mine just opposite to the burst rail. The Military representative with force came shortly afterwards and ordered that there should be no movement of Trains until the Export came. The Export came within an hour and took over the unexploded anti-tank mine for investigation.

The Assistant Engineer and the Permanent Way Inspector's staff, etc., went to the place of occurrence at about 10.35 hrs. and repaired the bent rail and replaced the two broken CST-9 plates and two tie bars and declared the track fit for running at 11.35 hours.

The Government Railway Police, Ranaghat started case No. 4 on the same day under Section 126, Indian Railways Act, read with Section 3 & 5 of Indian Explosive Substances Act. The case is under investigation.

So far no arrests have been made.

SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI : Sir, unfortunately, this occurrence took place on the Railways and we have to address this call attention motion to the Minister of Railways. The information we have got appears to be a sad commentary on the state of our border defences in that sensitive region of Indo-Pakistan border where just a few kilometres across Pakistani army is almost smarting for a fight...

SHRI B. S. MURTHY (Amalapuram) : itching for a fight.

SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI : The information given to us has several lacunae and it is not very clear from the statement as to what was the actual cause of the explosion. The newspapers reported what really exploded on the track and burst the rail was a dynamite. I don't know whether that is correct. The anti-tank mine that was discovered later was an unexploded one. Has the Railway Minister any information as to the actual cause of the explosion? What did explode? His statement does not also state as to when the civil and police authorities and border security force and army authorities reached the place of accident. Of course, the old station master at Burnpur could do no more than inform the army authorities and district authorities and police authorities at Krishnanagar, district headquarters, which is about 40 to 50 KM from that place. It is not directly connected by rail. The railway connection is rather circuitous. There is a road connection. So, I want to know this: When did the concerned authorities connected with the defence of the railway track actually arrive, one by one? His statement does not make that clear.

The third question is of a general sort. What is the sort of liaison that is maintained by Railway Administration in this zone and by the Defence Authorities, with regard to the guarding of the railway track? The Minister's statement does not give that impression. I find from the *Statesman* of Calcutta of July 14th that after this explosion took place the police officer said that as a preventive measure a platoon of force had been deployed for round-the-clock patrol duty along the railway track between Gede to Majdia. That is becoming wise after the theft has taken place! Why did not the police authorities, army authorities or border security people think of guarding the track beforehand? I don't blame the Minister or the Railway Administration as such. Mr. Hanumanthaiya is a senior Member of the Cabinet. I want to know what actually is being done here. This is a sensitive border and the security and defence arrangements must be tip-top; but it does not appear to be so on the face of it, from this statement.

SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA : I share the anxiety of the hon. Member. He asked about the timing, I think. The Engineer, the Permanent Way Inspector, all reached the place of occurrence immediately. Within 4

hours and 40 minutes everybody was there. Everybody concerned including the military reached the spot expeditiously and there has been no delay. About the other question regarding the type of material used, this is under investigation. Technical people have to tell us what is the type of material used. The anti-tank mine and other things that he mentioned have been handed over to the military. The most important point is that these tracks must be patrolled. That is what we are proposing. We had certain discussions. I did discuss this with the Minister in Bengal when that Ministry was in office. I had discussions with the Defence Minister also. Besides the security force, there is the police force and railway protection force. In case of patrolling by army, everybody seems to feel ensured of better safety. Therefore, there is now a proposal to post military personnel also to patrol. So, all possible measures are being taken. As the hon. Member and the House know, we shall not be able to exactly foresee the time and place of an accident or saboteur activity, and it is only after the event that we come into the picture. But, if military patrolling is introduced it will greatly help, I understand. I am asking even the RPF personnel to patrol at appropriate places where it is expected that these things will happen.

SHRI TRIDIB KUMAR CHAUDHURY : Has it been ascertained from the marks on the anti-tank-mine whether it was from the Indian ordnance factories or from the Pakistan ordnance factories, because according to the papers it was stolen from some ordnance factory and the papers do not say whether it was from the Indian or Pakistan ordnance factory? Has that aspect of the matter been gone into?

SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA : Yes, it has been gone into. As the hon. Member knows, it is such a serious matter to make allegations against our own factory or the Pakistan personnel. It is under investigation. I may require a few days more to know correctly the origin of this anti-tank-mine.

SHRI JAGANATH RAO (Chatrapur) : Let him then make a statement.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHARY (Cooch-Bihar) : Let him not become wiser after the event only.

SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL (Dabhoi) : We find from the newspaper reports that the

Majdia district is a strategic point which is about 2½ k.m. from the Pakistan border. As my hon. friend has said, the authorities could have foreseen things and could have managed to provide security on that track for our trains. But we can say that it was the quick sense of the engine-driver which averted great devastation and saved the lives of hundreds of passengers.

But we also read from the newspapers that there is no adequate security arrangement. For, on the next day, that is, the 14th July, we find that a group of Pakistan army men rushed into the same border territory and started firing indiscriminately. This shows that the border does not have adequate security, which is a point of worry not only to that part of the country but to the whole country. So, may I know from the hon. Minister what adequate measures have been taken for the security of this area ?

SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA : The hon. Member will feel greatly relieved to know that it was not a passenger train but only an engine and a brake van, and, therefore, there was no danger to lives of hundreds of passengers. Regarding the other point that he has raised, I have already answered it earlier in reply to Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri's question.

DR. RANEN SEN (Barasat) : This calling-attention-notice should have been answered by the Home Minister or the Defence Minister, because during the last few days, the Calcutta papers like the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, the *Hindustan Standard* etc. are publishing reports after reports about the attempts of the Pakistani agents to commit acts of sabotage inside West Bengal. This incident on the railway track is just one incident in a series. A few days back, a mine exploded, and one BSI officer was killed. In another instance, a man was carrying some explosive material inside a pumpkin and that exploded, and certain people were killed. I have no time to go into all those reports. But these reports clearly reveal that attempts are being made to blow up our railway lines, our bridges, culverts, installations, houses and everything.

There is a systematic attempt made by Pakistani infiltrators and others. But the

whole thing has been treated rather lightly by the Inspector General of Police, Shri P. K. Basu, according to a report which appears in yesterday's *Amrit Bazar Patrika*. It says that a part of the track was blown up and whether there has been an attempt at sabotage would only be known after enquiries. He said 'From first hand reports, it seems that an attempt to destroy the railway track was amateurist'. He is not an explosive expert ; he is an Inspector General of Police risen from a lower rank. He does not know anything about mines or explosives. But he goes on making all kinds of statements to newspaper reporters. This shows what precautionary measures the Government of India are taking when the enemy is at our border.

It is mentioned in the Minister's statement :

"The place of occurrence is at kilometre Post No. 108/6 in between Majdia and Banpur on the Up Main Line and it lies within one mile from Changkhali border, that is to say, the East Pakistan border..."

There is no military, no border security force. Yesterday we had a little brush with Shri Jagjiwan Ram. There was no military sentry, no border security force, no anti-espionage staff working.

Somebody comes, plants a mine or a couple of mines. What happens. A mine explodes. The Station Master informs all concerned. So police comes, then border security force comes, then military comes. It takes three hours. Just imagine the situation. We are living in what world? Shri Hanumant haiya is not to be blamed for 'his. The entire Home Ministry and the Defence Ministry should be blamed for this callous attitude towards the security of the borders of India. We come from the area. We are agitated over this. I represent a border area. I have visited those areas. Sometimes there is shelling from across the border. People are killed on this side. Then we send a protest note or start counter-shelling after a few minutes or few hours.

Therefore, this is a very unsatisfactory state of affairs. Our borders should be strongly secured against enemy agents or infiltrators who are doing a lot of mischief over there.

[Dr. Ranan Sen]

Secondly, the railway track should be properly guarded, and that too by the military. What does the RPF know about mines and explosives? They know a little about point 303 rifles. Therefore, intelligence has to be strengthened from the Home department; secondly, military personnel should be strengthened there; thirdly, military intelligence should be tightened up. Fourthly, the railway track and other important installations should be properly guarded.

After making these suggestions, I want to know whether the Railway Minister has sent any strong note to all the heads of the railway department to make arrangements on behalf of the railways also to guard all the railheads and lines all throughout the West Bengal area bordering Bangla Desh. Have actual arrangements been made to guard railway culverts, and railway bridges and lines so that suspicious people are apprehended and brought to book as soon as they are found out?

SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA : I am thankful to the hon member for his suggestions. Most of them are acceptable. So far as Defence and the Home Ministry are concerned, I am told, they will be able to answer about their part. In this question, I am concerned only with the railways. I have been worried for the last two months because many of these tracks even in Bihar have to be patrolled because of these criminal activities, and I am wholly in agreement with the hon. Member that so far as the border area adjoining Pakistan is concerned, not merely the civil authorities but the military have also to co-ordinate their efforts in order to ensure maintenance of track, safeguarding of bridges and other things. I have already said that it will satisfy the hon. Member to know that military patrolling is contemplated. Probably it will take place soon.

श्री भारतासिंह चौहान (घार) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह बड़े दुख की बात है कि यह जो एक्सिडेंट हुआ है, उसके बाद केन्द्रीय शासन सुरक्षा का कुछ इन्तजाम करने की विन्ता कर रहा है। परन्तु यह भली-भांति मालूम है कि जब पाकिस्तान ने 1965 में आक्रमण किया, तब उसने इसी तरह काश्मीर में भी सीबोटैज किया था

और उस का जो परिणाम देश को भुगतना पड़ा, वह हमारे सामने प्रत्यक्ष है। समय-समय पर पार्लियामेंट में आसाम, बंगाल और अन्य सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों की गम्भीर स्थिति पर विचार हुआ है, इस विषय में कई सुझाव किये गये हैं और शासन ने भी वह आश्वासन दिया है कि वह वहां पर सुरक्षा की व्यवस्था करेगा। मैंने पिछली डीबेट्स को देखा है। उनमें यह भी कहा गया था कि इन बार्डर एरियाज़ में रोडज़ की भी कमी है, इस लिए सरकार वहां पर पूरी तरह से सुरक्षा की व्यवस्था नहीं कर पा रही है, क्योंकि रोडज़ के न होने से वह समय पर पुलिम और मिलिटरी नहीं भेज पाती है।

यह स्पष्ट है कि पाकिस्तान ने 1965 में जो षड्यंत्र किया था, आज की स्थिति से उसी का आशाम मिलता है। इसलिए शासन को भारत की पूर्वोत्तर सीमा पर सुरक्षा व्यवस्था को मजबूत करने पर गम्भीरता से विचार करना चाहिए और उस में जो भी कमियां हों, उन को दूर करने का प्रयास करना चाहिए।

भारतीय जनसंघ ने चार साल पहले इस बारे में एक रेजोल्यूशन पास किया था कि अगर पूर्वोत्तर भारत की समुचित सुरक्षा व्यवस्था करनी है, तो वहां पर एक विशेष प्रशासन स्थापित किया जाये। अब सुना है कि केन्द्रीय शासन उस पर विचार करने जा रहा है। लेकिन होता यह है कि जब कोई मुसीबत आती है, तब सरकार की आंखें खुलती हैं, किन्तु उस से पूर्व वह समस्या की ओर कोई ध्यान नहीं देती है और उस का रख शिथिलता तथा निष्क्रियता का रहता है। मेरा कहना यह है कि वहां पर आज जो परिस्थिति है, उसको टैकल करने के लिए केवल प्रशासन को विशेष अधिकार देना या प्रशासनिक व्यवस्था करना ही पर्याप्त नहीं है, बल्कि इस विषय में वहां की जनता का भी सहयोग लेना होगा। उस क्षेत्र में लाञ्छों की ताबाद में शरणार्थी आ रहे हैं। इसमें कोई संदेह नहीं है कि उन में हजारों आसुर भी होंगे। अगर प्रशासन यह सोचे कि इन शरणार्थियों को स्क्रीन करके यह पता लगाया जाये कि उन में से जासूस कौन हैं, तो

उसको एक बड़ी भारी समस्या का सामना करना पड़ेगा। इसलिए वहाँ की जनता से सहयोग लेना चाहिए। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि शासन इस बारे में क्या करने जा रहा है।

उस क्षेत्र में केवल हमारी रेलवे ही नहीं है, और भी कई कनसर्न हैं। सरकार कहां कहां अपनी फौज पहुंचा पायेगी? इसलिए उस को वहां की जनता का सहयोग लेना पड़ेगा और इन षड्यन्त्रों का मुकाबला करने के लिए उसको प्रशिक्षण देने की व्यवस्था करनी पड़ेगी। उदाहरण के लिए अगर कहीं आग लग गई, और गांव में प्रशिक्षित लोग न रहे, तो वे उस पर काबू नहीं पा सकेंगे। तो इस की आप व्यवस्था करने जा रहे हैं क्या? यह मेरा एक प्रश्न है।

साथ ही यह वही संकेत है क्या शासन ऐसा महसूस कर रहा है? भारत सरकार क्या इस बात को महसूस कर रही है कि 1965 में जिम तरह से पाकिस्तान ने पहले घुसपैठ की जो बाते चाबू की थी वही संकेत इस बार भी है? जो यह रेल की दुर्घटना हुई है वह उसी का संकेत है?

इस के साथ-साथ मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस रेल दुर्घटना में कौन-कौन व्यक्ति दोषी पाए गए हैं? क्या उन्हें पकड़ा गया है? अगर पकड़ा गया है तो वह कौन व्यक्ति है? माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा कि उस की जांच हो रही है और उसमें विलम्ब लगेगा। बड़े ताज्जुब की बात है युद्ध आप के सिर पर है और आप कह रहे हैं कि उसमें विलम्ब लगेगा। यह तो कोई सक्षमता की बात नहीं है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या शासन ऐसा महसूस कर रहा है कि यह जो संकेत है यह युद्ध का संकेत है? यह मेरे तीन प्रश्न हैं जिनके उत्तर मैं चाहता हूँ।

SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA : Sir, the hon. Member has mentioned public co-operation. One of the steps we have already taken pertains to that subject. Instructions have been issued to the railways in co-operation with the education authorities to conduct educative propaganda on the subject of safety

on railway tracks in their adjoining villages. The Ministry of Home Affairs has also issued a circular to all the State Governments to educate the villagers in the vicinity of the Railways and make them responsible for safeguarding the tracks with the help of Block Development Officers, Publicity Officers and others. I wholly agree that public co-operation is necessary. I once appealed to the hon. Members of this House to take the initiative in their respective constituencies and mobilise public co-operation.

Regarding the other remarks made by my hon. friend, they are general, pertaining to the safety and defence of the country with which all of us, whether in Government or in the Opposition, are patriotically co-operating. There is no difference on these general observations.

DR RANEN SEN : Sir, may I ask the Minister whether definite discussions with the Defence Minister have taken place after this railway accident? He has not answered that question.

SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA : It is not that the Defence Ministry is sleeping over the matter. They are taking various steps and the Bangla Dsh affair, as you know, has made everyone of us sit up, they are doing things.

श्री भारत सिंह चौहान : जनता के लिए प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र जब तक आप स्थापित नहीं करेंगे तब तक जनता का सहयोग प्राप्त नहीं हो सकेगा।

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak) : It is really unfortunate that after our hon. Home Minister and our hon. Defence Minister firmly declared that adequate measures would be taken to avoid such dangers in the border areas, we now see the same incident, in a most important part of the country, a sensitive area, has taken place. I want to ask one or two questions of the hon. Minister. Just after the explosion on the track, the railway accident, the Rajdhani Express was on the track. May I know whether the Minister has thought of any mechanical device which can detect any sort of such explosive things, so that the driver can pull back the train in time and so that no accident or no such type of explosions could take place on the railway tracks?

SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA : The hon. Member has something in his mind. I will discuss it with him privately and get his opinion.

12.35 hrs.

RE. QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

SHRI S. M. KRISHNA (Mandya) : Sir, I beg your leave to raise a matter of privilege that has been caused by the unnecessary interference of the Speaker of the Tamilnadu Assembly with reference to what transpired in this House on the 13th of this month.

SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI (Berhampore) : On a point of order, Sir. We saw in the papers that when this matter was raised in the Tamilnadu Assembly, the Speaker of that Assembly said that there was a *prima facie* case, but he said he would write to you, the Speaker of Lok Sabha. So, is it proper that this should be raised at this moment before you get that communication from him? Otherwise, unnecessary bad blood would be created between the two Houses.

SHRI VIKRAM CHAND MAHAJAN (Kangra) : Bad blood has been already created. Mr. Krishna is right. No State Assembly has a right to question the right of an MP to speak in Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Krishna, I have not given by consent to this motion so far.

SHRI S. M. KRISHNA : I am aware of it. But I would like to quote one sentence to which serious objection has been taken by the hon. Speaker of the Tamilnadu Assembly. It pertains to what Mr. Shivappa said here. I quote :

"What was the Tamilnadu Government creating all *galatta* and *hullabaloo*"

This is the only sentence on which the hon. Speaker of the Tamilnadu Assembly comes to a conclusion that a *prima facie* case has been established that a breach of the privilege of the Tamilnadu Assembly has taken place. Is there any reference anywhere to the Tamilnadu Assembly in Mr. Shivappa's speech? No. There is only reference to the Tamilnadu Government. Government can never be equated with the legislature. I feel under the Constitution we have got to perform our duties as Members of Parliament without any

hindrance or outside interference, I deem it proper that this House should be seized of this matter. I am not very sensitive about privileges of MPs as well as members of State Legislatures, but I am sure, Sir, you will take it up with the Speaker of the Tamilnadu Assembly and see how far certain conventions can be established whereby a Member of Parliament could reassert his right to say whatever is proper. After all, you are the person to restrain us from going beyond limits. I would leave it at that and I would abide by whatever ruling you may give.

श्री एन० एन० पांडेय (गोरखपुर) : श्रीमन, जहा तक प्रश्न है तामिलनाडु विधान सभा के अध्यक्ष के निर्णय का, जो यहां पर माननीय श्री शिवप्पा साहब ने कालिग अटेशन मोशन पर दो शब्दों का इस्तेमाल किया, मैं नहीं समझता कि उन शब्दों में कोई ऐसी बात थी कि तामिलनाडु असेम्बली के विधान सभा के सदस्यों पर या उस हाउस के ऊपर उसमें कोई ऐस्पेशन कास्ट किया गया हो, मैं आप का ध्यान उन शब्दों की तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूँ...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जब यह मोशन आएगी तब आप कह लेंता ।

श्री एन० एन० पांडेय : मैं तो फैंक्ट्स की तरफ ले जाना चाहता हूँ क्योंकि यह हाउस अपने प्रोसीजर का मास्टर है... (ब्यवधान) ...मैं एक बात कह कर अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ । मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो "गलाटा" शब्द का इस्तेमाल किया गया है, तामिल लैक्सिकन डिक्शनरी, बाल्यूम, 2 पृष्ठ 730 के अनुसार इस के अर्थ हैं—रायट, कमीशन, टुलुट, इसरक्शन, ट्राइफ इन अर्थों में कोई ऐसी बात नहीं है, जिसमें तामिलनाडु असेम्बली का किसी तरह से कोई अपमान किया गया हो। हुल्ला-गुल्ला भी ऐसा शब्द नहीं है जिस पर आपत्ति की जा सके, फिर भी यदि आपत्तिजनक हो, तो हमारे सदन की प्रक्रिया नियमावली के अनुसार आप को अधिकार है, आप उस को एक्सपंज कर सकते हैं। लेकिन इस के बावजूद भी तामिलनाडु असेम्बली ने—जैसा श्री कृष्णा ने कहा है—कैबल शब्दों के