

entirely agree with you in having a discussion. You have the discussion in a clam way. It is the privilege of the House to decide who should resign and all that.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Why don't you pull them up ? (Interruption).

MR. SPEAKER : Under no Rules, the Speaker can ask anybody to go or come in. Let us hear the Minister. Later on, you can have the discussion in a regular way. You can make a motion of whatever type under the Rules. Let us discuss it in a calm way. The hon. Minister,

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : At about 23-59 hours on 15-11-1968 while No. 2 Dehri-On-Sone Gomoh passenger was leaving Son Nagar station situated on the Gaya-Mughal Sarai section of the Grand Chord on the Eastern Railway an Up electric goods train side-collided with it. As a result the fourth coach from the engine of the passenger train was badly damaged and capsized, 5th and 6th coaches also capsized and the 7th coach derailed. The electric engine of the goods train along with two wagons went down the embankment and next 11 wagons derailed and capsized. I regret to say that 9 persons were killed and fifty-two injured, of whom five seriously, as a result of the accident.

The Assistant Operating Superintendent, Dehri-On-Sone and the Assistant Engineer attended the site of the accident immediately with two railway doctors. The Accident Relief Train from Son Nagar reached the site of the accident at 01.00 hours with two railway doctors. The medical van from Gaya accompanied by one railway doctor and three other doctors reached the site of the accident at 03.50 hours. The medical van from Mughal Sarai accompanied by the Divisional Medical Officer Mughal Sarai reached the site of the accident at 04.35 hours. The Divisional Superintendent, Danapur accompanied by Divisional Officers reached the site of the accident at 07.05 hours. Senior Deputy General Manager of the Eastern Railway, the Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Commercial Superintendent also attended the site of the accident.

The Minister of State for Railways accompanied by the Member (Engineering) and the Director (Safety) Railway Board left for the site of the accident by air. They reached at 21.50 hours yesterday and visited the injured in the hospitals at Dehri-On-Sone and Son Nagar.

The Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety is holding inquiry into the accident beginning on 20-11-68 at Son Nagar.

Ex-gratia payment to the next of kin of dead and to those injured has been arranged.

Some Hon. Members rose—

MR. SPEAKER : No discussion now. It will lead us nowhere.

श्री रवि राय : आप आगे के लिये इसको व्यवस्था कर दीजिए ।

MR. SPEAKER : Yes. You give it in writing. I will look into it. You can have a small discussion, if you like, and the Minister may be able to throw some light. Perhaps some useful suggestions can be made. It will be useful then. I will consider it. Shri Kunte to make a personal explanation.

SHRI SRINIBAS MISRA (Cuttack) : Before Mr. Kunte begins, the Railway Minister should lay a diary of accidents on the Table of the House.

12.30 Hrs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION BY MEMBER (SHRI DATTATRAYA KUNTE).

SHRI DATTATRAYA KUNTE (Kolaba) : With your permission, I would make a brief statement....

SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai) : On a point of order. How can Mr. Kunte make a statement? On that day the allegations made by certain people were brought to the notice of the Minister and one of the allegations was very nice—Mr. Kunte went to Srinagar to enjoy the three princesses' show organized by *Femina*. What had Mr. Kunte to do with that gorgeous show? Whatever that might be, the Minister said that the allegations must be inquired into and the allegations are being inquired into. At this point, if the hon. Member is given an opportunity to make a statement justifying

[Shri Hem Barua]

his position, that inquiry would be vitiated.

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever it is, the hon. Member's name has been mentioned; allegations have been made. He is also an hon. Member of this House. Should he not at least be given an opportunity to explain his position? Let the Government inquire. What he says may or may not be right and what the others have said also may or may not be right. I am just giving an opportunity to the hon. Member...

SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR (Pre-made): No allegations were made against Mr. Kunte in his capacity as an hon. Member of this House. Allegations were made against him in his capacity as somebody outside. Why should that be made a subject of controversy here?

MR. SPEAKER: Allegations were made on the floor of the House. I have allowed him.

SHRI DATTATRAYA KUNTE: With your permission, I would make a brief statement as a personal explanation regarding things said about me during the Question Hour in the House on the 12th instant. I must mention that at that time I was referred as a member of this House.

It was said by the hon. Member, Shri Hem Barua, that I was a non-political when I was appointed Chairman of the Bennett Coleman Co. It is not a statement of fact. In my humble way I have been in politics since I joined satyagraha in May 1930. The Chairman who preceded me has been an important member of a political party and was appointed Chairman with the mutual consent of both the Government and the shareholders.

The Hon. Member, Shri Umanath, inquired of my taking two lakhs of rupees from the Company for my election. His statement is farthest from the truth. My contradiction of a similar statement made in this House is still unrefuted. I did not take any money.

The Company is a public limited one. Its accounts have not only to be passed by the directors and adopted by the shareholders but undergo much scrutiny before and after. This Company has two directors

appointed by Government in addition to the four of the shareholders.

Shri Umanath's further point was that I indulged in appointing my friends and relatives to several posts in the Company. This is completely untrue. Even the memorandum of the union which is the basis of the question says of one appointment. There is, I say, not even one such appointment.

The Hon. Member, Shri George Fernandes, made reference to the purchase of some machine by the Company. When he wrote to me about it, I immediately sent him a detailed reply after making inquiries in the office as I was not aware or concerned in any purchase for the Company. He has offered to produce proof of what he said. I am sure it will prove my complete bonafides in the matter.

श्री जार्ज फर्नेन्डीज (बम्बई दक्षिण) :  
अध्यक्ष महोदय स्वतः ये हैं, हमको इस पर  
खुलासा मिलना चाहिये।

12.34 hrs.

## CONTRACT LABOUR (REGULATION AND ABOLITION) BILL

### EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

SHRI K. N. PANDEY (Padrauna): I beg to move:

"That this House do further extend the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to regulate the employment of contract labour in certain establishments and to provide for its abolition in certain circumstances and for matters connected therewith, upto the last day of the second week of the Budget Session (1969)."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do further extend the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to regulate the employment of contract labour in certain establishments and to provide for its abolition in certain circumstances and for matters connected therewith, upto the last day of the second week of the Budget Session (1969)."

*The motion was adopted.*