

[Shri Mohsin]

- (2) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Ninth Amendment Rules, 1971, published in Notification No. G. S. R. 898 in Gazette of India dated the 5th June, 1971. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 609/71].

**COTTON TEXTILES (CONTROL) AMENDMENT ORDER**

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : On behalf of Shri Lalit Narayan Mishra, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Cotton Textiles (Control) Amendment Order, 1971 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S. O. 324 in Gazette of India dated the 16th January, 1971, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-610/71.]
- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the above Notification. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-611/71]

MR. SPEAKER : This practice of abruptly getting up for another Minister was disapproved in the last Lok Sabha and we want a practice to develop that the Minister who wants to be absent should authorise another Minister and send a letter to us. I am not going to accept it in future though I agree today.

**EXPORT OF CAST IRON MANHOLE COVERS AND FRAMES (INSPECTION) RULES, 1971**

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Export of Cast Iron Manhole Covers and Frames (Inspection) Rules, 1971 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S. O. 2155 in Gazette of India dated the 28th May, 1971, under sub-section (3) of section 17 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act,

1963, [Placed in Library. See No. LT-612/71].

12.31 hrs.

**STATEMENT Re RAILWAY ACCIDENT IN THE SEALDAH DIVISION OF EASTERN RAILWAY**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Hanumanth-aiya.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Sir, I rise on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : On what ?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : On the statement about the railway accident. He is going to read the statement.

My point of order is this. Previously, the practice in this House was that in the case of all major accidents which involved loss of life of many persons and serious injuries to many others, at least, we were allowed to put an adjournment motion and censure the Government. In this case, I welcome the statement to be made by the Minister. But we do not get an opportunity to censure the Government. In the last six months, there have been so many accidents,.....

MR. SPEAKER : So many occasions are available to you when the budget and demands are discussed.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : This is a very serious matter. In the last six months, about 49 lives have been lost in railway accidents and many persons have received serious injuries. Thinking the Minister to be a new Minister, we did not think it proper to move an adjournment motion in regard to railway accident. But in the last six months, many accidents have taken place.

Now, he will read the statement and, ultimately, he will lay it on the Table of the House. We will not get an opportunity to put some questions and censure the Government. In the case of major accidents like this, you kindly allow us to put an adjournment motion or a Call Attention Notice

so that we can censure the Government, I gave an adjournment motion today.....

MR. SPEAKER : The hon Minister.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampore) : What about the point raised by Shri S.M. Banerjee. About 50 60 persons have been killed. You allow us to put some questions on the statement.

SHRI S. M BANERJEE : I only want to know from you how many lives should be lost so that an adjournment motion can be allowed.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : You are not giving any importance to this matter. This is a very serious matter. We want to put some questions.....

MR. SPEAKER : We have been following the practice that no adjournment motion is allowed because there are opportunities available when the budget and demands are discussed.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : The accidents have occurred after the Railway Budget has been passed.....(*Interuptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : Sir, with profound regret I beg leave of the House to apprise it of an unfortunate Train Accident which took place on 6.7.71 between Hotar and Magrahat Stations of the Sealdah Division of the Eastern Railway.

On 5.7.71, from 19.25 hours (7.25 p.m.), there was a Total Failure of Communications (Telegraph, Telephone and Block) between Hotar and Magrahat Stations. In these conditions, a Light Engine was started from each of these stations at about 3.40 hours (3.40 a.m) on 6.7.71. These two Light Engines collided Head On this block section (in between Stations) at about 4.00 hours (4. a. m.).

Shortly thereafter, at about 4.40 hours (4.40 a.m.), Train No. SD--103 Diamond Harbour-Sealdah Local (Electric Multiple Unit with 8 coaches) entered the Block

section from Magarhat Station. This Train collided with the Up Light Engine at about 5.00 hours (5 a.m.).

Due to the collision between the two Light Engines, the Driver and the 2 Firemen of the Down Light Engine and a spare Guard, who was travelling by that Engine were killed. The Second Fireman of the Up Light Engine was also killed. The First Fireman of the Up Light Engine sustained grievous injuries.

The subsequent collision between the Diamond Harbour-Sealdah Local Train and the Up Light Engine resulted in the death of the Motorman of the Local Train and 10 Passengers travelling in the Train. Another 24 Persons including 5 Railway Employees sustained injuries. Of these the injuries of 9 persons are reported to be grievous. The wreckage of the ill fated train is being cleared and there may be a possibility of some more bodies being found.

Immediately on receipt of the information of the Accident, a Medical Van, accompanied by Railway Doctors and Railway Officers was rushed from Sealdah. The injured persons were, after being rendered First Aid, sent to Hospitals for further Medical Treatment.

Member (Traffic) of the Railway Board and other Senior Railway Officers of the Eastern Railway proceeded to the site of accident and visited the Injured in the Hospitals. *Ex Gratia* Payments have been made to the next of the kin of the Dead and to the Injured.

The Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety, Calcutta, will be holding a Statutory Enquiry into this Accident.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : rose—

MR. SPEAKER : No questions please.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Either you allow a discussion, Sir.....

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Calcutta South) ; Only one question you allow us, Sir,

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) : Kindly admit our call attention motion. When twenty two persons have been killed..... (Interruptions).

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore) : Will you please allow at least an half-an-hour discussion on this, Sir ?

MR. SPEAKER : I am prepared to allow it.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : What then are we here for, Sir ?

MR. SPEAKER : Once I allow it, then I have to do it always. The rules are very clear that no questions are allowed when the Minister makes the statement.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I only wanted to request you. You ask the Minister Our only request is that this inquiry is a departmental inquiry. Let there be a judicial inquiry.

MR. SPEAKER : I will convey your views to him. The Minister is also under the threat of being accidented. This is a very risky Department. They should be very careful about it. There should be some extra-ordinary procedure.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Two light engines to collide—it is very strange.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : It is a head-on collision, Sir.

12.37 hrs.

#### ELECTION TO COMMITTEE TEA BOARD

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI  
A. C. GEORGE) : I beg to move :

“That in pursuance of sub-section (3) (f) of section 4 of the Tea Act, 1953, read with Rule 4 (1)(b) of the Tea Rules, 1954, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Tea Board.”

\*Moved with the recommendation of the President,

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That in pursuance of sub-section (3) (f) of section 4 of the Tea Act, 1953, read with Rule 4 (1) (b) of the Tea Rules, 1954, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Tea Board.”

*The motion was adopted.*

12.38 hrs.

#### \*DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1971-72— Contd.

##### MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we will take up discussion and voting on the Demands for giving Nos. 57 to 59 and 129 relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The time allotted by the Business Advisory Committee is 4 hours. Members interested in moving their cut motions may please send their slips to the Table within the next 15 minutes along with the serial numbers.

##### DEMAND NO. 57—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,57,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1972, in respect of ‘Ministry of Information and Broadcasting’.”

##### DEMAND NO. 58—BROADCASTING

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,96,61,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course,