

12.28½ hrs.

## STATEMENT RE DEFENCE MINISTER'S VISITS TO USA AND USSR

**The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan):** Sir, this statement is a brief report for the information of Parliament....

**Mr. Speaker:** How long is this brief report?

**Shri Y. B. Chavan:** It will take 15 minutes.

**Mr. Speaker:** He may lay it on the Table of the House.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Jalore):** It is an important statement, Sir, and we would like to hear him.

**Shri U. M. Trivedi (Mandsaur):** We would like to have it read.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have no objection, if that is the desire of hon. Members. He says that it will take 15 minutes. If the copies are circulated to all hon. Members, they will be able to read it and afterwards if some clarification is required I can allow them time.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad):** Tomorrow.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is for them to decide as they like.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad (Bhagalpur):** Since this is an important statement we would like him to read it. As in certain cases you allow statements to be read, I hope you will allow this also to be read.

**Mr. Speaker:** For 15 minutes....

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** If you rule that you will not allow statements which will take 15 minutes or more to be read, that is another thing.

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla (Mahasamund):** If after reading the statement, you will allow questions it may

be read, otherwise it may be laid on the Table.

**Mr. Speaker:** When it is laid on the Table, Members will get their copies, they can read it and then put questions by way of clarification. If the House so desires, I have no objection in having it read now.

**Shri Hanumanthaiya (Bangalore City):** Your suggestion is very helpful to us, because afterwards we can put questions.

**Shri U. M. Trivedi:** That is what we want.

**Shri Hem Barua:** If we will not be allowed to put questions now, then this suggestion is very helpful because we can go through the statement and then put questions.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is what I have stated just now. He might lay it on the Table.

**Shri Y. B. Chavan:** Sir, I lay it on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3188/64].

12.31 hrs.

## STATEMENT RE: RAILWAY ACCIDENT AT KAITHALKUCHI ON NEF RAILWAY

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Sham Nath):** Sir, with profound regret I have to inform the House that on 19-9-1964 at about 18.45 hours, at Kaithalkuchi station on the Alipurduar Junction-Gauhati section of Northeast Frontier Railway, train No. 5 Up Kamrup Express entered platform line No. 1 and collided head-on with the Down Gauhati-Lucknow Express which had been admitted on that line a short while earlier.

As a result of the collision, the train engine of Kamrup Express derailed and capsized, the third-lug-

[Shri Sham Nath]

gage-cum-brake van next to the engine derailed and capsized and the following two bogies—a third class and an upper class—got derailed and telescoped. The engine of the Gauhati-Lucknow Express sustained damage and the front third-luggage-cum-brake van of this train also got derailed and telescoped. The second bogie from the train engine, a third class carriage, was also damaged.

Nine persons including two Railway employees were killed on the spot. Thirty-five persons, including the Driver and the two Firemen of 5 Up Kamrup Express sustained injuries. Twelve of the injured after being given first aid on the spot resumed their journey. The remaining twenty-three were sent by the Railway Medical Van to Gauhati for medical treatment. One of the injured in the Medical Van succumbed to his injuries on the way. The remaining twenty-two persons were admitted in hospitals, some in the Gauhati Medical College Hospital and others in the Railway Hospital at Maligaon. According to the latest information, eight persons have been discharged.

Immediately on receipt of information about the accident, Medical Vans and Relief trains from Rangiya and Alipurduar Junction, and other medical aid were rushed to the site. The General Manager and other Senior Officers of the Northeast Frontier Railway also proceeded to the site to supervise the relief operations.

The unaffected portions of the two trains were despatched to their respective destinations with relief engines after some detentions.

*Ex-gratia* payments to the next of kin of the deceased and to the injured have been arranged.

A Member of the Railway Board flew from Delhi on the morning of 20-9-1964 to visit the injured and the site of accident.

My colleague Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, Minister of State for Railways, would also be visiting the injured in the hospitals at Gauhati today.

The Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety, Calcutta has commenced his statutory enquiry into the accident.

**Shri Nambiar (Tiruchirapalli):** In view of the fact that frequent accidents of this type of head-on collision are taking place, an ordinary enquiry by the departmental officials will not suffice. This is a serious accident.

**Mr. Speaker:** He might put the question whether the Government is going to appoint...

**Shri Nambiar:** In view of the fact that accidents of a serious nature like head-on collision are taking place, may I know whether Government would institute a judicial inquiry in which non-officials also may participate to see that such accidents do not recur in future?

**Shri Sham Nath:** As a matter of fact, accidents on the Indian Railways have been showing a downward trend. As regards this accident, the Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety is already making investigation. After his report has been received and considered by the Commissioner and the Railway Board, this suggestion for a judicial enquiry might be considered.

**Shri Nambiar:** In this matter, the enquiry that is being held.....

**Mr. Speaker:** The answer has come. What more does he want?

**Shri Nambiar:** My point is this. He is putting the horse before the cart.. (laughter).

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया (फर्रुखाबाद):  
मौर अंग्रेजी बोलो!

**Shri Namblar:** I am sorry. He is putting the cart before the horse.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member should not reverse the order.

**Shri Namblar:** If the Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety makes the enquiry first, followed by the other enquiry, the officer will set every document in the proper order and hide the real or important cause of the accident. That is what they always do and that is exactly what we want to avoid. We want a proper inquiry to be held so that the truth may come out of it.

**Mr. Speaker:** He has put the question and the reaction of Government has come. I cannot compel Government to take a particular course of action.

**Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati):** This unfortunate accident took place in my constituency.

**Mr. Speaker:** We are very sorry; we all sympathise with the hon. Member.

**Shri Hem Barua:** In view of the fact that this unfortunate accident took place on the main line and the main line operates on, what is known as the interlocking system according to which, whenever there is a train in the line, the signals do not show off, how could it be possible to have this accident when a train was on the line and these signals did not show off?

**Shri Sham Nath:** This was not an interlocked station, Sir.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I submit that it is a main line and, may I submit for the information of the hon. Minister, that on all main lines the system is interlocking system. Here also there is an interlocking system.

**Mr. Speaker:** What should I say in these circumstances? He should make further enquiries and then write to me.....

**Shri Hem Barua:** It is in my constituency.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is not enough. He may write to me that the answer given is not correct. Then I will call for the answer of the hon. Minister and then decide.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur):** I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the preliminary enquiry has shown that this is not a case of sabotage or anything like that.

**Shri Sham Nath:** How can we say that? Sir, probably, it is not; it appears to be a case of human error. Still, we cannot say anything unless we get the report from the Additional Commissioner.

**श्री विश्राम प्रसाद (लालगंज):** मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस एक्सिडेंट का कारण क्या था और उस में कितनी प्रापर्टी का नुकसान हुआ।

**प्रध्यक्ष महोदय:** यही तो वह दर्याफ्त करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।

**श्री झोंकार लाल बोरवा (कोटा):** जो व्यक्ति मरे हैं, अन्तिम फ़ैसला होने तक क्या उन को कोई सुविधा देने का विचार किया गया है?

**प्रध्यक्ष महोदय:** उन्होंने कहा है कि दिया गया है।

**श्री बड़े (खारगोन):** क्या यह सच है कि कि एक्सिडेंट होने के बहुत देर बाद मेडिकल एड वहाँ पर पहुँची और इस बारे में प्रेस में शिकायत आई है?

**श्री शामनाथ:** ऐसी कोई बात नहीं है। ज्यों ही एक्सिडेंट हुआ, उस के थोड़ी देर बाद मेडिकल रिलीफ वहाँ पहुँच गई।

**श्री बागड़ी (हिंसार) :** ये जो हादसात होते हैं, ये या तो रेलवे लाइन पुरानी होन की वजह से और या सरकारी कर्मचारियों की भ्रसावधानी और एक दूसरे पर दोष-प्रतिदोष लगाने, एक दूसरे पर आरोप लगाने के आधार पर होते हैं। क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतायेंगे कि सरकार इन हादसात को रोकने के लिए क्या कदम उठा रही है ?

**श्री शामनाथ :** जहाँ तक एक्सिडेंट्स का ताल्लुक है, व कई वजूहात से हो सकते हैं और रेलवे बोर्ड की यह कोशिश रही है कि जहाँ तक हो सके, इन एक्सिडेंट्स को एवायड किया जाये। इसीलिए ज्यादा से ज्यादा स्टेशनों पर इलेक्ट्रानिक एडज का प्राविजन किया जा रहा है।

**श्री बागड़ी :** मेरा सवाल यह था कि..

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** माननीय सदस्य का सवाल यह है कि उन के खयाल में एक्सिडेंट्स इसलिए होत है कि एक तो रेल पुरानी है, दूसरे नौकरों की तरफ से गलतियां होती है और इसलिए पुरानी रेल को नया करने के लिए गवर्नमेंट क्या कर रही है और नौकरों से जो गलतियां होती हैं, उन को दूर करने के लिए सरकार क्या कर रही है ?

**श्री बागड़ी :** रेल का मतलब है पटरी।

**श्री शामनाथ :** जहाँ तक ट्रैक का ताल्लुक है, पुराने खराब ट्रैक को जल्दी से जल्दी रिप्लेस करने की कोशिश की जा रही है।

**श्री गुलशन (भटिडा) :** क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि इस दुर्घटना में घायल होने वाले और मरने वाले व्यक्ति कितने हैं, जिन को सरकार की तरफ से तुरन्त सहायता दी जायेगी ?

**Shri Sham Nath:** The question is not very clear; probably, the hon. Member wants to know the number of people to whom *ex-gratia* payment has been made. I have not got that figure; but, I think, all the people who were

entitled to such payment have been given *ex-gratia* payment.

**श्री गुलशन :** मेरे सवाल का जवाब नहीं आया है।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** उन्होंने कहा है कि उनके पास जवाब नहीं है।

**श्री काशी राम गुप्त (अलवर) :** एक्सीडेंट इनक्वायरी कमेटी ने जो सुझाव पेश किये हैं ऐसे हालात को रोकने के लिए, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस जांच के दौरान में रेलवे प्रायोरिटीज उनका भी ध्यान रखेंगी अथवा नहीं ? जो लोग वहाँ पर मारे गये हैं क्या उनकी शिनाखत हो गई है कि वे कौन-कौन लोग हैं और कहां-कहां के हैं ?

**श्री शामनाथ :** जहाँ तक एक्सीडेंट इनक्वायरी कमेटी का ताल्लुक है, उसकी जितनी भी रिपोर्टें शंख थीं उन पर अमल किया जा रहा है। जितने लोग मरे हैं और जितने लोग जख्मी हुए हैं, उनके मुताल्लिक डिटेल्ज अभी अवैलेबल नहीं हैं।

**श्री काशी राम गुप्त :** मैंने यह जानना चाहा था कि जो सुझाव उस कमेटी के हैं उनके आधार पर जांच होगी अथवा नहीं ?

**श्री शामनाथ :** यह तो जाहिर है कि कुंजरू कमेटी की जो सिफारिशें थीं, उनको सामने रख कर इनक्वायरी होगी।

**Shri P. C. Borooah (Sibsagar):** May I know whether the speed of trains in the Assam section of the North-east Frontier Railway is a little over 10 miles an hour and, if so, may I know whether in this case the speed was more and that is why this accident occurred?

**Shri Sham Nath:** One train was stationed at the station, while the other train coming from the other side collided with it. There was no question of speed being more than what it should have been, and causing by itself the accident.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** May I know whether the average speed is only 10 miles per hour?

12.40 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MEMBER UNDER  
DIRECTION 115

**Shrimati Savitri Nigam (Banda):** May I know how far this is correct that the number of the killed persons as stated by the Minister is not correct and that, according to the number given in the various newspapers, the number of casualties was much more and also how far this is correct that the driver of the train...

**Mr. Speaker:** She expects the Minister to answer how far it is correct that the answer of the Minister is not correct.

**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:** I draw the attention of the Minister to the newspaper report where it is stated that the number of casualties is more.

**Mr. Speaker:** She ought to have put it in that manner.

**Shri Sham Nath:** I have not seen any newspaper report in which the number of people killed or the number of persons injured is more than what our report says. I am sure that the number of people originally killed was 9 only.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is 10 now. It was in the papers today that it has gone to 10 now.

**Shri Sham Nath:** Yes, Sir, it is 10 now, 9 plus 1 who died in the hospital Originally, it was 9 only.

श्री यु० सि० चौधरी (महेन्द्रगढ़): इस दुर्घटना की रिपोर्ट कब तक आने की उम्मीद है ?

श्री शामनाथ : बहुत जल्दी आ जाएगी । मैं समझता हूँ कि जो प्रिलिमनरी रिपोर्ट है एडीशनल कमिश्नर की वह कोई एक महीने के अन्दर आ जाएगी ।

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad):** Mr. Speaker, by your leave, Sir, under Direction 115, I wish to point out an inaccuracy in a statement made by the Minister of Law on the 10th of this month.

On that day, in response to a Calling Attention Notice regarding the Election Tribunal's verdict on the election to the Lok Sabha from Gonda Parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh during the general elections of 1962, the Law Minister made a statement. In reply to a question raised by me, you were kind enough to reinforce the query I put "What about the letter of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru? Has any action been taken on it?"...the Minister went on to say:

"The present Prime Minister, who was Home Minister then, and our late Prime Minister were apprised of the allegations concerning this election. I met the late Prime Minister and informed him myself. I went to the present Prime Minister with the Chief Election Commissioner. These allegations were communicated to both the present Prime Minister and the late Prime Minister by the Chief Election Commissioner and by myself. Thereupon the late Prime Minister had written a letter informing the Chief Minister of U.P. about the serious allegations which have been made and expressing his concern. The reply has already been published in U.P. by the Chief Minister..."

Then, I asked him:

"May I request you, Sir, in view of the gravity of the matter, to direct the Government to lay on