

[Shri Dassappa]

has referred to it. It is so even in an advanced country like the United Kingdom. There you will find that, out of 652 collisions and derailments,—after all, these are the most important—381 are due to failure of human element—as much as 58.4 per cent. So, let us not unnecessarily underrate the good work that is being done by the Railways.

I am very thankful to all the hon. Members for having taken the trouble of giving so many suggestions.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Useful suggestions.

Shri Dasappa: I may say that I will do my best to implement as many of them as is practicable and possible within our resources.

Mr. Speaker: Now what is the desire of the House? Shall I put the cut motions to the vote of the House just now?

Some Hon. Members: Yes:

Shri Alvares: There is a clarification that I would like to ask.

Mr. Speaker: That can be done later on.

13.50 hrs.

RE: CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE

Mr. Speaker: The Home Minister wanted to make a statement.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Nanda): In the question hour today I was in the Rajya Sabha and at the end of the question hour I had to make a statement there which detained me for some time. After that when I came here, I learnt there was a calling attention notice to be answered by the Home Ministry. I ascertained afterwards the position and I may say that neither myself nor my Ministry received any intimation or inkling of this till the close of the question hour.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): It needs an enquiry, Sir, I hope you will hold it.

Shri Nanda: It may be ascertained. That is the fact of the matter. Later on, I would like to make a statement and give all the information that is required.

Shri Nambiar (Tiruchirapalli): How could the Deputy Minister make a statement later on if they had no information about it?

Mr. Speaker: There were two notices—one was a motion for adjournment and another a calling attention notice. The Ministry got notice of the adjournment motion and so they prepared a statement for that. Since I had disallowed that adjournment motion, there was no need for that statement to be made at that moment. Ordinarily, we presume that the notice is given in time. In this case, Shri Swell gave notice to us in due time, at 10.10. We have received it also before 11 o'clock. That is perfectly all right. Every hon. Member is expected to deliver three copies of such notices one to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, and one to the Minister concerned besides the one to the Speaker, in due time, before the sitting starts. If Shri Swell has given that notice in time then, certainly, he is not to be blamed. We will have to find out where the fault lies; it has to be ascertained. But I would like to say one thing, which I suggested at that moment also. If for any reason or any fault anywhere the Minister does not get that intimation in proper time, he has only to say that he has not got the notice and the House would show that indulgence every time.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Barackpore): I think at one stage she wanted to say "we have not received the notice" but, then, she got a piece of paper and she read it out.

Mr. Speaker: If only she had said that then the position would have been different.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I am afraid this might lead to difficulties and complications if this latitude is given to the Treasury Benches because, I am sorry to say, if they are allowed to plead the excuse that they have not got the notice, in spite of our best efforts occasions may arise when one Minister or the other may say "we have not received intimation", even though we have done our duty.

Mr. Speaker: How can a Minister be expected to answer if he has not received the notice?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: That is why I wanted to suggest that the communication channel must be made more efficient.

Mr. Speaker: I will find out where the deficiency has been. We might ascertain that so that in future we might not be put to any difficulty so far as communication from one to the other is concerned.

Shri Nanda: Even if the notice had been received, it was not necessary that we should be prepared immediately to give the information. In some cases, we might require some time.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: You may ask for time and the hon. Speaker and the House will give it. That is a different matter. But here the plea was that intimation was not received.

Shri Swell (Assam—Autonomous Districts): I do not know how discussion has started on this once again but I may say for your information that I dropped the calling attention notice in the box outside the Notice Office at 9.50 A.M. this morning. The two Deputy Ministers were present in the House and one of the Deputy Ministers read out from the prepared statement. So, I assume that the Government were aware of this calling attention notice.

Mr. Speaker: That is a different matter. She made a statement be-

cause there was an adjournment motion also, of which they have received a copy. That is all right. We will take up the discussion on the railway budget.

13.54 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—
RAILWAYS—contd.

DEMAND NO. 1—RAILWAY BOARD—contd.

Shri Sinhasan Singh (Gorakhpur): Sir, with your permission, I may put a question on the saloons, which is rather incongruous or unrealistic and not in keeping with the socialistic pattern of society. I was told that the Minister himself was using a saloon. I do not know whether he has given it up. I am told that there are 8,000 saloons in the Indian railways. If these saloons are given up, they can be converted into 500 rakes and it will result in economy and reduction in over-crowding. Just for the use of a few officers, 8,000 saloons are being reserved, I am told. Is he going to take any action in that regard?

Mr. Speaker: He will consider that also.

Shri Alvares rose—

Mr. Speaker: Not at this stage.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Sir, he is an authority on railways.

Shri Alvares: I seek only one clarification. He was in the process of making an important policy statement in regard to victimised workers. He started by saying that in course of time if they have been punished or put off duty, the question would be considered. May I request him to make a complete statement in this respect, rather finish his sentence?

Mr. Speaker: He has still another opportunity to make that statement.