

[Shri Shahnawaz Khan]

As a result of the accident, one passenger was killed, one was seriously injured and four suffered minor injuries. The driver of the passenger train also received serious injuries. The two firemen on the engine of the passenger train and the Guard of the goods train received minor injuries. The injured were attended to on the spot by the local doctors of Tiruvannamalai and the Assistant Surgeon, Tiruvannamalai who rushed to the site of the accident immediately. Except for the two grievously injured persons who are progressing in the hospitals, the others have been discharged. The body of the deceased Shri Subbaraman was sent to Pondicherry as desired by his relatives.

Divisional Superintendent, Tiruchirappalli accompanied by other Divisional Officers left by car immediately after the accident. Senior Deputy General Manager, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Mechanical Engineer and acting Chief Operating Superintendent of the Southern Railway also proceeded by road to the site immediately thereafter.

An *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 500 to the relatives of the deceased person and Rs. 200 to the passenger who was seriously injured and Rs. 200 in all to those who received minor injuries was made. The injured railway staff were also paid *ex-gratia* Rs. 200 each.

Through communication which was interrupted was restored by 21.30 hrs. on 14th December, 1963.

The Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety, Bangalore, commenced his enquiry into the accident on 16th December, 1963. The cause of the accident will be known after he has completed his enquiry.

Shri Nambiar: This is a very serious accident which has occurred on account of the parting of a goods train. I would like to know whether this section is controlled, whether block operation was there, whether it was

not possible for the officials to find out the rolling back of the parted goods wagon, and how it could happen in broad daylight. This is a point which may be explained in some detail.

Mr. Speaker: Should the hon. Minister explain it or would that be known after the enquiry?

Shri Nambiar: It is not a question of enquiry. These are all elementary things. It is a question of the rolling back.

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. Minister wants to say anything, he may say it.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: As I said, the Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety is enquiring into the whole matter, and we would not like to say anything at this stage.

Shri Nambiar: This is the second time that such a parting was taking place. There was a similar accident previously also. May I know whether there was any enquiry at that time and any action was taken. At least if that had been done, this accident could have been avoided.

Mr. Speaker: These are the facts which the hon. Minister has just now. The other things will be known after the enquiry has been completed.

Shri Nambiar: There was a similar accident on the same section before.

12.22 hrs.

RE: APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE
TO ENQUIRE INTO ALLEGATIONS
AGAINST MEMBER

Mr. Speaker: Shri J. B. Kripalani had made a statement here the other day and he wanted that the Speaker should appoint a committee to go into the allegations that had been made against him by two of the Members.

As is known to hon. Members, the procedure here is that when a statement is made and it is challenged by another Member, then I allow the

other Member also to make a statement, when both are present, and if the first Member also wants to make a statement, he can also make it. Both are placed on the Table of the House and they form part of the record. The Speaker does not appoint any inquiry committee or any commission to go into the matter. This is only the privilege of the House; if any regular motion is made, of course, the House is sovereign and can take that matter up to make inquiries into allegations and come to any decisions and to appoint any committees for that purpose. So, it is not for me.

I just learn from the record that at that time, one of the hon. Members, Shri Harish Chandra Mathur had raised this point that on an earlier occasion when Shri Bagri's case was involved and Shri Humayun Kabir had made a statement, I had done something of that sort to make an inquiry. But there is a distinction there. There was no inquiry that I made. Shri Humayun Kabir made a statement alleging that Shri Bagri had a particular document which was only a demand note and that he had represented it in such a manner that the Members must have understood that it was an audit note or an audit objection. Shri Bagri at once said 'Yes, that was a mistake', and he had only this audit note. Therefore, I said that when Shri Bagri had that clearly in his hand, he must not have observed as he did and given the impression that it was an audit note or audit objection. That was what I did at that moment. No inquiry was made. No committee was appointed, and there was nothing of that sort.

Therefore, there is no case, and I cannot appoint any committee or commission of inquiry. If someone wants and a regular motion is given, that would be for the House to decide.

12.15 hrs.

RE. QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

Mr. Speaker: Shri Daji has given notice of a breach of privilege about the calling-attention-notice that he had given earlier about the Seventh Fleet.....

Shri Daji (Indore): On the 13th instant.

Mr. Speaker: I had passed it on to the hon. Prime Minister and he had fixed the date, and I had informed the House that he would make a statement on the 19th instant.

Shri Daji and one other Member has alleged that because that statement had been made by the Prime Minister elsewhere at some other place, when the facts were known to him earlier, he could have made it earlier here, and the two Members just want to have that taken up as a breach of privilege.

I shall postpone that, because the Prime Minister is not here just now. When the Prime Minister is here, I shall take it up. But at this moment, I could just make this much clear that there is no breach of privilege involved.....

Shri Daji: It is unfair that it is not taken up. But I request that I may be given an opportunity to express my opinion before you give your ruling. If you are not taking it up, then I may be given an opportunity to express my opinion.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, he might express his opinion. We need not take up the other question so far as those facts are concerned, whether he had information, whether it was appropriate or not and so on. I would only like to know from the hon. Member how this is a breach of privilege.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): He did make a statement outside the House.