

[Shri Morarji Desai]

receiving reports of the progress of the discussions from which it would appear that some improvements in the original proposals have been made. At the same time, the basic pattern of the proposed arrangements does not so far meet our essential point of view. I do not yet have the full picture before me. This is a matter which would be discussed further at the Prime Ministers' Conference next month.

We hope, by then, to have a clearer picture of the situation than we have today. What I would emphasize is that, unlike some of the more prosperous countries of the Commonwealth, we cannot be satisfied with arrangements which will aim at securing the continuance of our trade at existing levels. Our main concern would be with opportunities to expanding our trade so as to reduce and indeed to abolish at the earliest possible date our dependence on aid to provide the resources for our development.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Barrackpore): May I know how much of the aid which is available to us is untied aid and which are the countries which have agreed to give such untied aid?

Shri Morarji Desai: There is not much of untied aid, but we are trying to have some untied aid from all the countries. There has been some from Germany so far.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi (Jodhpur): Was there any discussion regarding details of the scheme of the proposed trade agreement with the Six which would replace our trade agreement with the U.K.?

Shri Morarji Desai: There cannot be any discussion before U.K. joins the Six.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I request that both the statement of the

Finance Minister and that of the Prime Minister be circulated to the Members of Parliament?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

12.57 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. RAILWAY ACCIDENT AT DUMRAON

The Minister of Railways (Shri Swaran Singh): Sir, it is with a very heavy heart that I rise to make a statement on the unfortunate accident which took place at Dumraon station of the Eastern Railway on the night of 21st July, 1962.

At about 21/50 hrs. that night, as 6 Down Amritsar-Howrah Mail, which was scheduled to run through Dumraon station on the Mughalsarai-Patna double-line section, entered that station, it collided head-on with a goods train which was standing on the down main line.

As a result of this accident, 66 persons died on the spot and 5 succumbed to their injuries subsequently. Besides, 77 other persons received injuries of whom 28 were discharged after first aid.

The engines of both the trains were badly damaged. The first four bogies next to the engine of the Mail train telescoped and the following two bogies derailed. The remaining six bogies of the train remained on the track.

As soon as the information about the accident was received, relief trains with medical vans were rushed from Dinapore and Mughalsarai. The Assistant Surgeon, Buxur, who happened to be at Dumraon at the time of the accident, took up relief operations instantaneously with the assistance of the guards of the two trains and the available first aid boxes. Within about 45 minutes, the Medical Officer, Simra, arrived with equipment. Local doctors, medical officers of the Dumraon

Raj Hospital and civil hospitals Buxur and Arrah, also reached the site by midnight. The relief trains from Dinapore and Mughalsarai arrived shortly after midnight. All the injured persons were in the first instance removed to the Dumraon Raj Hospital from where after preliminary medical attention, they were transferred to other civil and railway hospitals for further medical treatment.

The Deputy Minister for Railways Shri Shah Nawaz Khan flew to Patna on the morning of 22nd July, 1962 and visited the injured in hospitals and the site of accident.

Leaving aside those who succumbed later in the hospitals, 49 persons were admitted in hospitals, of whom 19 have been discharged upto 5-8-1962. The remaining 30 are reported to be progressing.

Relief measures, such as supply of snacks, tea, drinking water, etc., were promptly provided. An enquiry office was set up to furnish information and transmit messages relating to persons involved in the accident. To meet the immediate needs relating to persons injured or dead, exgratia payment amounting to Rs. 31,700 have so far been made. Free passes were issued to the relatives of the injured and the dead.

The Government have appointed a Commission of Inquiry headed by Shri Bishan Narain, a retired judge of the Punjab High Court and two other Members, including a Member of the Lok Sabha, to go into the causes of the accident. Let me assure the House that suitable action will be taken against those found to blame by the Commission of Inquiry.

An ad hoc Claims Commissioner is being appointed to deal with claims for compensation.

13 hrs.

Shri Nambiar (Tiruchirapalli): I have a submission to make. My adjournment motion is not on the Dumraon accident alone. It reads:

"The serious situation arising out of the series of railway accidents occurring almost every week during the last four months resulting in loss of life of about 200 passengers and injuries to many and loss of property."

The serious situation has arisen because of the utter inability and incapacity of the railway administration to guarantee safety to the passengers and their properties carried by the railways. Our submission is that we want to pass a censure on the Government through the adjournment motion. It is not a thing which can be met by explaining the Dumraon accident alone.

Mr. Speaker: As the hon. Member has rightly said, his motion does not relate to any specific matter or specific incident, but to a series of accidents that have happened. Under rule 58, not more than one such motion shall be made, not more than one matter shall be discussed on the same motion, and the motion shall be restricted to a specific matter of recent occurrence.

The motion is:

"The serious situation . . .

Shri Nambiar: The serious situation is one matter.

Mr. Speaker: "... arising out of a series of railway accidents . . ." A series of railway accidents cannot be discussed in an adjournment motion.

"... occurring almost every week . . . Almost every week they have been happening. So, it is not a recent occurrence.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hosangabad): It is very vague.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North): A matter of recent occurrence