

(b) whether the Railway Staff in Southern Railway and in particular in Trichy Division have been taken to task for insisting on following the rule (to have guard and guard-van) strictly;

(c) whether this breach of the rule in running the goods train is the cause of the recent accident at Vaniyambadi in Tamil Nadu;

(d) whether this rule of having a guard and guard-van is proposed to be strictly followed by the Indian Railways; and

(e) if not; the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a), (d) and (e) Normally, trains are not run without Guards or brakevans. However, to cater for operational contingencies, rules permit trains to be run without Guards or brakevans. Such exemptions are given only under special instructions issued by the competent authority. In all such cases, adequate precautions are taken to ensure safety.

(b) One Guard on Trichy Division has been taken up for his failure to comply with special instructions.

(c) The Goods train involved in the accident near Vaniyambadi on 11-2-1981 was provided with a brakevan. The Guard, who was in the brakevan, got injured in the accident and later succumbed to his injuries.

#### Ransacking of Belgharia Railway Station

\*451. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an angry mob ransacked the Belgharia station, North of Sealdah, including its booking office, goods and parcel godowns and the level crossing lodge

and set fire to three electric coaches on the 19th February, 1981; and

(b) if so, the details thereof.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Yes. One SLR and 2 bogies, i.e. passenger coaches and not 3 electrical coaches were set on fire by the mob. Details are as under:—

On 19-2-1981, 3 armed Rakshaks who were booked to escort goods train No. 723 UP and its engine crew reached Belgharia Railway Station in Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway, at 07.25 hrs. and reported for duty to Assistant Station Master, Belgharia. While these 3 Rakshaks were coming out of the office of the Assistant Station Master, Belgharia, some persons entered into altercation with these Rakshaks. The miscreants, being in large number, assaulted and brick-bated the Rakshaks and even tried to snatch away their rifles, resulting in serious injuries to two of the Rakshaks. One of the Rakshaks fired one round from his rifle in self defence but the miscreants continued to chase them and throw stones on them. The Rakshaks then took shelter in the Government Railway Police Outpost which also was surrounded by the mob. The mob set fire to different parts of the Railway station building including the officers of Station Master Assistant Station Master, Parcel Godown, Inward/Outward Parcel, Goods Office, Booking Office, level crossing gate goomty and even went to the extent of attacking the Rakshaks in the G.R.P. Outpost with fire-arms. Then the Rakshak fired another round from his rifle with the result that one person in the mob was killed.

The mob set fire to the G.R.P. Outpost and also 3 bogies of train No. 363 UP-Lalgola passenger, which was forcibly stopped outside Belgharia Station. These 3 bogies were completely

gulled. Electric engine was badly damaged and overhead electric wire got melted.

Police Force which reached the spot had to burst 12 rounds of tear gas shells to disperse the mob. But when the mob did not disperse and continued to be violent the police opened fire. It has been reported that 12 rounds were fired by the Police. In this process, 10 police personnel and public in addition to R. P. F. Staff were injured. It is also reported that one revolver of Sub-Inspector, Belgharia Police Station has been snatched away by the mob.

Government Railway Police Station Sealdah has registered a case No. 22 dated 19-2-1981 u/s 147/148|307|379|435|436|427 IPC, 121 IRA and 3/5 Indian Explosives Act. Belgharia Police Post has also registered case No. 29 dated 19-2-1981 u/s 147|148|149|363|323|324|337|338|307|427|304 IPC 6/3 Indian Explosives Act, 24/29 Arms Act. On the complaint of one pradeep Kumar Moitra, brother of deceased Amit Kumar Moitra, G. R. P Sealdah started another case 24 dated 20-2-1981 u/s 304/34-IPC against the R. P. F. Staff and the same is also under investigation.

**News Item Captioned 'Five Days in Dr. R. M. L. Hospital'**

4164. SHRI R. L. BHATIA:

SHRI S. M. KRISHNA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has seen the horrifying tale of a CGHS beneficiary 'Five days in Dr. Lohia Hospital' resulting in the death of his wife appearing in the Indian Express, New Delhi dated 31st January, 1981;

(b) if so, Government reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps which Government have taken or propose to take to set

matter, right in the Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in the capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) Yes, the press item in the Indian Express, New Delhi dated 31-1-1981 has been seen. However from the report in the matter it is considered that adequate treatment was given to the patient and there was no negligence in the treatment.

(b) and (c). Whenever any such complaint is received it is enquired into and remedial measures are taken wherever necessary.

**Staff Strength of Indian Embassy in U.S.A.**

4165. SHRI D.S.A. SIVAPPAKA-SAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the staff strength (Designation and Number) in our Embassy in the U.S.A.;

(b) how many of them are Indians and non-India based Indians;

(c) whether any representation has been submitted by the staff members requesting their grievances for redressal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) A statement is attached.

(b) There are 104 India-based officials; 76 Indians who are not India-based; and 14 foreign nationals.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In September 1980, the President, Indian Embassy Local Employees Association, Washington, had