

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

respect, the only course one can follow just now is to give the facts we have. One can hardly discuss the matter before the enquiry is over. With your permission, Sir, at the outset, I may give the information that we have received till about an hour ago.

On 18th May, 1952, at about 23 hours, there was a head-on collision between 24 Dn. mixed train from Merta Road to Bikaner and 221 up goods train from Bikaner to Merta Road, between Bikaner and Palana stations of the Northern Railway. The site of accident is about seven miles away from Bikaner. Deaths 45: 36 or 35 at site and the rest on the way when they were being taken to the hospital. This includes one fireman of goods train. Injuries: at present there are 50 in the hospital.

The first report from the site of accident issued by the guard of 24 Dn. through a spare guard reached Bikaner at about half an hour after midnight on the 19th. Relief train with two senior doctors from Bikaner hospital, full medical equipment, water for drinking, generating set for lighting and empty coaching stock for patients left Bikaner at 2.00 hrs and reached the site at about 2-30 hrs. This relief train was also accompanied by some railway officers of the Bikaner Division and civil and police officers.

Before the arrival of the relief train, railway staff assisted by other passengers removed some injured persons from the wreckage and the remainder were taken out by special staff on the relief train with the aid of electric light from the generating plant on the relief train. At the same time, necessary medical aid was rendered to all injured at the site.

All injured were removed to Bikaner Hospital where full medical attention, including transfusion of blood plasma, etc. and setting of fractures in plaster, was given to all injured by mid-day of the 19th. Full comforts for treatment, including beds for all, in the hospital were ensured. Fifteen were discharged after medical treatment in the hospital by the mid-day of the 19th and 52 were still in the hospital. Now, there are 50.

Three passenger-bogies, all third class, next to the engine of passenger train were completely telescoped and the fourth I, II, Inter and III

composite bogie mounted the telescoped bogie in front and fell on one side. Both the locomotives were badly damaged. The damage to track was negligible. It appears to be a case of wrong line clear having been given to one of the two trains. The system of working on the section is by paper line clear ticket.

Enquiry by the Government Inspector of Railways, Bombay, has been fixed for the 22nd instant at Bikaner. The General Manager, the Chief Operating Superintendent and the Chief Medical Officer, Northern Railway, flew from Delhi at 9-30 hrs. on the 19th for Bikaner on their way to the site of accident. They also went round the Bikaner Hospital to see the condition of the injured.

The line was blocked by the wreckage. I might mention that the two engines were so badly inter-locked that it was difficult to separate them. As a result, the subsequent trains from Bikaner and to Bikaner were cancelled. According to information available now, through communication is expected to be restored between 12 o'clock and one this afternoon, that is, in about an hour's time from now.

That is all the information I have, Sir.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

REPORT OF INDIAN DELEGATIONS TO F. A. O.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Indian Delegations to the thirteenth session of the Food and Agriculture Organisation Council held at Rome in November, 1951 and the sixth session of the Food and Agriculture Organisation held at Rome in November-December, 1951. [Placed in Library. See No. IV. L 3(84)].

Shri D. D. Pant (Almora Distt.—North East): We are not able to hear, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will find it in the Order Paper.

Shri D. D. Pant: The microphones...

Mr. Speaker: No argument; nothing of the kind.

Shri D. D. Pant: Perhaps the microphones are not working.

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. Member is coming to very hasty conclusion about it. The conditions necessary are not being observed by the Members. I am myself disturbed by these interferences. I distinctly hear some talk going on, here. Perhaps the microphones are working too powerfully.

NOTIFICATION UNDER CALCUTTA PORT ACT

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following papers, in pursuance of subsection (1) of section 6 of the Calcutta Port Act, 1890:

- (i) Ministry of Transport's Notification No. 9-PI(1)/52, dated the 6th March, 1952; and
- (ii) Statement showing the redistribution of seats of elected commissioners on the Calcutta Port Commission.

(Placed in Library. See No. P-10/52].

DISPLACED PERSONS (CLAIMS) AMENDMENT BILL

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Displaced Persons (Claims) Act, 1950.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Displaced Persons (Claims) Act, 1950."

The motion was adopted.

Shri A. P. Jain: I introduce the Bill.

INDIAN TARIFF (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934."

The motion was adopted.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I introduce the Bill.

RESERVE AND AUXILIARY AIR FORCES BILL

The Minister of Defence (Shri Gopalaswami): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution and regulation of certain Air Force Reserves and also an Auxiliary Air Force and for matters connected therewith.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution and regulation of certain Air Force Reserves and also an Auxiliary Air Force and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Gopalaswami: I introduce the Bill.

MOTION ON ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT.—Contd.

Mr. Speaker: We shall now resume the debate on the Presidential Address. I need not, I think, read out the Motion of Thanks as it will only take time. I will now call upon speakers, and I will make a request in view of the large number of members who seem to be anxious to speak. It will be better if the hon. Members will stick to certain specific points if they can, and be as short as possible. Of course, I have set not more than 15 minutes, but it does not mean it should not be less than 15 minutes, and if Members observe a general rule of about ten minutes, it will be very much the better.

There is an announcement which I have to make, and that is, a request has been made to me and fairly supported by sections of this House, that instead of meeting from 10-45 A.M. to 5 P.M., we should have one sitting and the House may meet in the morning only from 8-15 a.m. to 1-0 p.m. I think that suits the convenience of Members. Now, this change will come into force from day after tomorrow. The point is that I do not like to disturb now the present timing arrangements about this debate; and therefore, after this debate is over by tomorrow, we will have the sitting at the changed timings from day after tomorrow. Of course, the question hour continues, unless it is the pleasure of the House to drop it.