

Train Controller on duty Delhi Division about the whereabouts of the goods train and at 5-45 hours the Safdarjang Air Port advised that an accident between the goods train and a road truck at the level crossing gate had taken place. Immediately the Safdarjang Hospital was contacted to send their ambulance van to the level crossing. Simultaneously, the Railway ambulance and doctor were also called out at 5-47 hours. The "Flying Squad" of the Police also arrived at about the same time. Efforts were made by them to take out the driver of the truck who was found entangled between the wreckage of the truck and Cow catcher of the train engine, but when it was found that this could not be done, the fire officer sent for the cutting plant from the Air Port Electric Shop and succeeded in extricating the driver of the road truck at about 7-00 hours. He was immediately rushed to the Safdarjang Hospital where he is reported to be making satisfactory progress.

The debris of the truck, after preliminary police enquiries was cleared from the track at about 8-55 hours and block section was cleared at 9-33 hours.

A District Officers' Committee consisting of Divisional Operating Superintendent, Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Divisional Engineer, Divisional Signal & Tele-Communication Engineer, Delhi is holding an enquiry and is expected to submit its report in a day or two. Preliminary enquiry seems to indicate that the head light of the engine was not burning at the time of the accident, and that the Driver is reported to have passed the signal in the danger position. The findings of the District Officers' Enquiry regarding the cause of the accident is awaited.

The damage to Railway property is estimated to be Rs. 200.

**Shri C. K. Nair (Outer Delhi) rose—**

**Mr. Speaker:** No question. Hon. Members may study the statement at leisure and put questions tomorrow or some other day.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

**Mr. Speaker:** The Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House in its Twentieth Report has recommended that leave of absence may be granted to the following members for the periods indicated in the Report:—

- (1) Shri Digvijaya Narain Singh
- (2) Dr. Shaukatullah Shah Ansari
- (3) Shri Muhammad Islamuddin

The Committee has further recommended that the period of absence of Dr. Satyaban Roy during the Thirtieth and Fourteenth Sessions may be condoned and that he may be granted leave of absence for the entire period of the current Session.

I take it that the House agrees with the recommendations of the Committee.

**Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad):** With regard to this paragraph No. 5 relating to Dr. Satyaban Roy I have to point out one thing. I do not wish to be unhelpful, but whenever a Member has applied for leave of absence in all cases always the reasons for the absence have been given. Here, if you look at this paragraph 5 carefully, you will see that the total period of absence of the Member during this Session amounted to 60 days and the Committee recommends that the absence of the Member for this period is condoned. It has not recommended that the leave be granted, but that the absence may be condoned altogether. I can understand leave of absence being granted to a Member. I think, in view of the healthy traditions in this House, Sir, it is necessary that whenever leave is granted, reasons should be stated to the House. Here it merely says that the absence may be condoned. No reasons have been assigned for the condonation recommended by the Committee. I would, therefore, request you, Sir, to elicit from the Chairman of this Committee, Shri Altekar, as to whether any communication has been received from this Member or, whether the Committee tried to enquire from him why he was absent, and what reasons he gave

[Shri Kamath]

to the Committee for his absence which, in my humble judgment, cannot be condoned without reasons being assigned for the absence.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member will kindly read the first line of the next paragraph. It says:

"The member has also requested leave of absence for the entire period of the Fifteenth Session as he is suffering from enteric fever. The total period of his absence from the 18th March to 28th March, 1957 amounts to 11 days. The Committee recommends that the member be granted leave of absence for this period."

**Shri Kamath:** You will be pleased to see that the second part refers to the Fifteenth Session whereas the first part refers to the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Sessions.

**Shri Altekar (North Satara):** Sir, with your permission, I will explain the position. During the last session this hon. Member had applied for leave for 60 days. He was also absent for 60 days as he was ill and due to which he had applied for leave. But the rule is that leave can be granted only for 59 days, and if leave has to be granted for 60 days the permission of the House is necessary. Therefore, we asked the hon. Member to apply again for purposes of condonation. He had already applied for leave, but as the leave was for 60 days which could not be granted under the rules he was asked to apply for condonation. Therefore, he has applied for condonation which has been granted. The reason of his suffering from enteric fever is already stated there.

**Mr. Speaker:** I may suggest to all hon. Members that, after the reports are submitted to the House, regarding granting of leave of absence to Members, if any hon. Member has got any doubt and wants to look into the details further I will make the particular application available to the hon. Member and he may kindly take it from the Secretary to avoid taking up the time of the House on that account.

So, I take it that the House agrees with the recommendations of the Committee.

**Several Hon. Members:** Yes.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Members will be informed accordingly.

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#### RESIGNATION OF MEMBER

**Mr. Speaker:** I have to inform the House that Shri M. D. Ramasami has resigned his seat in the Lok Sabha with effect from 25th March, 1957 afternoon.

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#### \*CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION ON STARRED QUESTION NO. 1257

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#### MOTION RE: INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Jawaharlal Nehru on the 25th March, 1957, namely:—

"That the present international situation and the policy of the Government of India in relation thereto be taken into consideration".

**The Minister Without Portfolio (Shri Krishna Menon):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the consideration of the motion moved yesterday by the Prime Minister before this House, there were, during the course of the debate, certain general criticisms of foreign policy in the background of the almost unanimous support of the House of that policy and its execution. In speaking at the end of this debate, Mr. Speaker, with your permission, I would first of all like to deal with these general criticisms of principles and execution of foreign policy, and then deal with the specific matters on which clarification has been sought or criticism made.