

12 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

REPORT OF INLAND WATER TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Inland Water Transport Committee. [*Placed in Library, See No. LT-1769/59.*]

NOTIFICATION ISSUED UNDER ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):** Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under subsection (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, a copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 1309 dated the 25th November, 1959. [*Placed in Library, See LT-1770/59.*]

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

EXPLOSION ON AMRITSAR-PATHANKOT RAILWAY TRACK

**Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur):** Sir, under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Railways to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

“The explosion on the Amritsar-Pathankot railway track on the 29th November, 1959.”

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** on the night of 29-11-59, at about 2.05 hours while passenger train No. 6 ABP was going between Jakolari and Sarna stations on the Amritsar-Batala-Pathankot section, the Engine Driver heard a loud report of an explosion on the track underneath the engine. Recovering quickly from the shock he put the brakes on and stopped the

train which had by then passed the site of the explosion.

Fortunately none was injured nor was there any casualty. A portion of the track, some sleepers, fish plates and bolts etc. were damaged.

The Guard of the train immediately contacted the Station Master, Jakolari who in turn sent messages to all concerned. A relief train was also sent from Amritsar.

Senior Railway, Police and Civil Officers rushed to the spot and on examination of the site came to the conclusion that this was an act of sabotage with intent to cause a serious derailment involving injury to life and property. An unexploded bomb was also discovered placed under the left rail. The explosives Expert of the Military disarmed the explosives.

Senior Police Officers met and discussed the entire case in the background of past incidents and local information and are pursuing all lines of inquiry.

On 16.1.1959, there was a similar explosion on the same section but between Sarna and Bahroli stations in which the track and the engine of the same train No. 6 ABP sustained damage though there was no injury or casualty among passengers even then. The scenes of occurrence are about 4 miles apart. The circumstances indicated that it was a case of sabotage with malicious intent. The Government Railway Police registered a case under Section 128 Indian Railways Act and Section 475 of Indian Explosive Act. Two persons suspected in the case were arrested by the police and interrogated a few months before. That case is still under investigation.

Through running of the train in the section was resumed immediately after the repairs to the track. Patrolling of almost all the sections of the railway in that area has been intensified. Vigorous effort by the police continues to trace out the culprits.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** In this particular case, has anybody been arrested?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** In this particular case so far no arrests have been made. But in the previous case, two arrests have been made.

श्री खुशबख्त राय (खेरी) : क्या मैं इसके बारे में कुछ इनफार्मेशन हासिल कर सकता हूँ? मैंने इसके बारे में एडजोर्नमेंट मोगन भी दिया था। समाचारपत्रों में यह खबर छपी थी कि इस मामले में कुछ विदेशियों का हाथ है। क्या इसके बारे में आप कुछ सूचना दे सकेंगे ?

श्री शाहनवाज खाँ : इसके बारे में अभी मुझे कोई खास जानकारी नहीं है।

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Previously in regard to the adjournment motion of Shri Vajpayee, he did say that this was an act of sabotage done by some Pakistani. It was suspected to be so. I want to know whether that was true.

**Mr. Speaker:** Did he say Pakistani?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** We never said that it was a Pakistani. We said that it was suspected to be an act of sabotage by somebody outside our borders.

श्री बलजीत सिंह (कागडा—रक्षित—अनुसूचित जातियाँ) : प्रेम में यह खबर आई थी कि एक काले रंग की कार यह बम फटने में पहले वहाँ गई और जल्दी ही वहाँ से वापस चली गई। क्या कोई इनक्वायरी की गई है कि किस की वह कार थी ?

श्री शाहनवाज खाँ : पुलिस छानबीन कर रही है। उसके बारे में मुझे कोई जानकारी नहीं है।

12.05 hrs.

DOWRY PROHIBITION BILL—contd.

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now resume clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill to prohibit giving or taking of dowry as reported by the Joint Committee. Five hours were allotted and there is no time left now. On clause 3 we have already taken 1 hour and 36 minutes.

**Shrimati Rehu Chakravarty (Basirhat):** Actually we have held over clause 2. That is the most debatable clause and the official amendment has just been circulated.

**Mr. Speaker:** We are in the middle of clause 3 now. We shall finish it and then come to clause 2. I shall extend the time by one hour. Is it enough?

**Some Hon. Members:** Two hours.

**Mr. Speaker:** The time may be extended but I think we can finish within an hour or at the most an hour and a half.

**The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen):** An hour should be enough.

**Mr. Speaker:** I will allow an hour. If at the end of that time, hon. Members feel that more time is necessary, some hon. Member may move for extension of time.

**Shri Raghbir Sahai (Budaun):** Clause 2 which has been held over is a very important clause. It is the crux of the whole thing and so the discussion should not be limited to one hour only.

**Mr. Speaker:** If it is possible to finish within one hour, we shall do so. I do not want to hustle anyone. If an hour more is required, the time will be extended with the consent of the House. I find that on clause 2 a number of hon. Members have given