

(b) the amount given by the Central Government to the Punjab State for the purpose in the Second Five Year Plan?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) No New Family Planning

Centre was opened in the Punjab during 1956-57.

(b) Grants-in-aid amounting to Rs. 1,38,295 have been sanctioned since 1-4-56 for the implementation of the family Planning Programme in the Punjab State as detailed below:—

	Rs.	
(i) Government of Punjab.	65,762	For the opening of five urban and eight rural Family Planning Clinics and to meet the expenditure on account of the State Family Planning Officer
(ii) Philadelphia Hospital, Ambala City.	5,500	For the opening of one rural Family Planning Centre
(iii) Family Planning Association, Punjab, Simla	51,277	For the opening of five urban and five rural Family Planning Centres
(iv) Family Planning Association, Chandigarh	2,736	For the maintenance of one Family Planning Clinic
(v) Child Welfare Society, Nangal Township	13,000	For the opening of one urban Family Planning Clinic
Total : Rs 1,38,295		

Remodelling of Ongole Station

1732. Shri B. S. Murthy: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the remodelling of the Railway Station at Ongole (Andhra Pradesh) has been taken up;

(b) the time scheduled for the remodelling; and

(c) the amount allotted for the same?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Over 95% of the work has already been completed. The remaining work will be completed by the end of 1958.

(c) Rs. 12.12 lakhs.

Railway Service Commission, Madras

1733. Shri B. S. Murthy: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Member of the Railway Service Commission at Madras is to retire shortly; and

(b) if so, whether a Harijan will be appointed as a Member as per their previous assurance given on the floor of the House?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

SITUATION ARISING OUT OF ALLEGED FAILURE OF RAILWAY ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE PROPER ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISITORS TO THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF NEW SUBURBAN ELECTRIC RAILWAY SYSTEM.

Mr. Speaker: I have received a notice of an Adjournment Motion from Mr. Hiren Mukerjee, Shrimati Renu Chakravartty, Shri Elias and others about the following:

"The tragic situation arising out of the failure of the Railway administration to make proper and adequate arrangements to receive and control the large crowds of people who eagerly came to watch the Prime Minister Nehru inaugurating the new suburban electric railway system at Howrah

[Mr. Speaker]

in Calcutta and the consequent death of two persons and injuries to large number of citizens."

Does the hon. Minister want to say anything other than what appeared in the newspaper?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): We have received notice of this motion at 10 a.m. this morning. We put through a trunk call to Calcutta. But, as the lines are out of order, we did not get any information.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta-Central): I do submit that this adjournment motion should be permitted to be discussed in this House because the reports in the papers are very disquieting. Quite apart from the fact that a very elaborate ceremonial was arranged for the inauguration of the electrification of the suburban railway system of Calcutta, it so happened that the Railway administration failed in affording protection to the people, who came to see the Prime Minister in the electric train. Some people travelled on the foot-board and when the electric train naturally picked up speed, they fell over, according to the newspaper reports.

I have the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of Calcutta, which writes in yesterday's number under an editorial article entitled "A crime scandal" as follows:

"The people broke the cordon and got on the foot-board, holding the handles of the bogies—they could not enter the compartments because the doors, we understand, were locked—having little idea of the speed which an electric engine quickly picks up."

If accidents happen on account of lack of proper maintenance of tracks and bridges etc. that might be understandable. But this kind of a ceremonial arranged for the visit of the Prime Minister, whom the people wanted to see in their thousands—a

look at him—if this kind of ceremonial is conducted and the railway administration fails so egregiously in affording the most elementary protection of security to the people who want to see what is going to happen, then it is a very serious matter, and I feel you should permit us to have some discussion.

It happened on Saturday and today is Monday. The Railway Ministry must be in a position to satisfy the House that everything was done to see to it that the people who came to see the inauguration of the electric train service by the Prime Minister were looked after and elementary protection was afforded to them. That not having been done by them, I feel you should provide an opportunity to the House to have a discussion of this adjournment motion.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): I beg to submit that the motion for adjournment is not in order. So far as casualties are concerned or any injury has been caused to any, it is a matter of regret to all of us and we are sorry to that extent. But, if in the usual course something happens and it is regrettable, I do not see how it can be made a subject of an adjournment motion here. If there was anything concerning law and order which called for attention there, it did not come within the purview of the Central Government. So far as the actual facts are concerned, nobody here seems to vouch for them from his own knowledge. Whatever is being said is based on a report published in the paper or papers. So, from whichever point of view it may be looked at, it is not a proper subject for an adjournment motion.

Mr. Speaker: When is the hon. Minister likely to get information?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The telegraph lines are out of order and we are having difficulties. I hope in two or three days' time, we will get the information.

Mr. Speaker: I will call this day after tomorrow. Let us know what is exactly the situation. On the one side it is said that proper steps have not been taken to safeguard the people or prevent the people from rushing. In spite of the best efforts passengers may rush on such occasions and it may be very difficult and beyond control. Let us know the full facts. Let the hon. Minister just make a report to the House of whatever facts he is able to gather by day after tomorrow. This matter may lie over.

Shri M. Elias (Howrah): Just now the hon. Home Minister said that nobody has witnessed these things. These things have occurred in my constituency. I was present there and I was invited to participate in that ceremony. But, I could not go. When I come there to come to Delhi, at that time, I heard from the railway staff and other people. There was a lot of commotion. The preparations for the inauguration were going on for the last 10 or 15 days and police parade was going on for the last six days. The police could not take full precautions to hold this ceremony properly. They could not check the people from boarding the train. Some compartments were completely vacant. They could easily be accommodated in these compartments. The officers who were in the compartment did not allow the people when they boarded the train, holding the handle outside. Therefore, I want to protest, because we have witnessed what happened there. I do not know how many people have died by this time, because the injuries to some were very serious.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I have adjourned it to day after tomorrow. How has this hon. Member enlightened this House by saying some people might have died. We want to know how many have died. There is no good arguing over this matter.

Shri Biren Roy (Calcutta-South-west): The railway police is under the

Central Government and not under the Bengal Government.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am not disposing of it now.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

Secretary: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha:—

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 125 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 13th December, 1957, agreed without any amendment to the Indian Railways (Amendments) Bill, 1957, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 6th December, 1957."

MINES AND MINERALS (REGULATION AND DEVELOPMENT) BILL

REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman (Kumbakonam): I beg to present the Report of the Joint Committee on the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Bill, 1957.

PREVENTION OF DISQUALIFICATION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Prevention of Disqualification Act, 1953.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Prevention of Disqualification Act, 1953."

The motion was adopted.