

[Shrimati Lakshmi Menon]

Khulna Railway Station waiting Room from 26th February afternoon to 27th morning and were protected by the police.

On 28th February, some houses were set on fire on the outskirts of Jessore, and on 1st March there were a few incidents at Rajshahi. On 2nd March, according to a press handout issued by the East Pakistan Government, 15 persons were injured and 4 killed in incidents at Saidpur. Police had to open fire to quell the disturbances and 200 arrests were made.

12.23 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair.]

STATEMENT RE: RAILWAY ACCIDENT

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** Sir, I regret to inform the House of a serious train accident which occurred in the early hours of the 8th March, 1961. At about 02.57 hours on date, while No. 24 Down Amingaon-Maniharighat passenger train was being received on line No. 2 of Telta station on Kishanganj Katihar section of the Northeast Frontier Railway, it collided head-on with 705 Goods which was already standing on the same line. As a result of this, two vehicles of the passenger train telescoped into each other and five wagons of the goods train were derailed. According to the latest report received here it is learnt that eleven persons were killed and 37 others have received injuries, of whom eleven are grievous. Six dead bodies have been extricated so far and five are still under the debris; search for further casualties, if any, is continuing. The first aid was rendered to the injured passengers by the guard of the train. Later, further medical aid was rendered by assistant medical officer, Kurseong. Medical relief train

was despatched to the site of the accident from Katihar. All the injured persons have already left the site of the accident in a medical van for being admitted into civil hospital at Katihar and Purnea

Through communication is interrupted and a diversion is being laid at the site. It is expected that through communication would be resumed by 13.00 hours today. The Government Inspector of Railways would be holding a statutory enquiry into this accident.

The hon. Railway Minister is flying to the scene of the accident today.

**Shri Braj Raj Singh (Ferozabad):** Sir, it is a serious accident. Will a copy of the report of the Inspector of Railways be laid on the Table of the House?

**The Deputy-Speaker:** If the hon. Minister receives any further information, it will be placed before the House as soon as it is received.

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** Yes, Sir.

12.25 hrs.

MEDICINAL AND TOILET PREPARATIONS (EXCISE DUTIES) AMENDMENT BILL\*

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):** Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955."

*The motion was adopted.*

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.