

12.04 hrs.

RE: MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

DEATH DUE TO FALLING FROM TRAIN

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of three adjournment motions on the same matter by Shri S. M. Banerjee and others. It says:

"Tragic death of Shri K. Rama Rao, former Editor of National Herald and Searchlight on 9th March, 1961 by falling from the 11 Up Delhi Express. His life could have been saved had the alarm chain been working."

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): The news has appeared in the Press and the reason for my adjournment motion is this. After all many people die, but here the alarm chain had been blanked off and the express train did not stop. It was only the Janata Express which picked up the body. The difference between the timings of the Janata Express and the Delhi Express is two hours. So, after falling down from the train, for two hours he must have been lying there groaning under the pain. The train stopped only at the next halt at Buzar 30 miles away. This is a very serious matter, because it was an express train from Howrah to Delhi and there was no alarm chain to stop the train. It is criminal negligence on the part of the authorities.

Shri Vajpayee (Balrampur): The door was open. The door was not closed. Enquiries have got to be made whether the door was in a position to be closed.

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): Details are being ascertained and will be made available as soon as possible.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Was the alarm chain working in the express train or not?

Mr. Speaker: Details have been called for and the House will be informed as soon as it is available.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: You may withhold your decision, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: I will call this adjournment motion on Monday.

12.07 hrs.

RE: SUPPLEMENTARIES TO STARRED QUESTION 733

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Pali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a statement to make regarding observations made by you during the Question Hour, by way of personal explanation. Your observations do little credit to the intelligence and intentions of many hon. Members who wanted to rise in their seats and ask certain questions regarding the price of Russian oil. It was as if we were wanting to ask questions which were unpatriotic and anti-national, it will place the Government in an embarrassing position and the prices of oil will go up. I think the hon. Members who were rising in their seats were intelligent enough and quite clear in their mind when they were putting this question that it was in the best interests of the country that they were putting the questions and not because the prices are likely to go up. We know that those people who are supplying us oil knew very well what the prices were.

We asked the question in order to bring pressure and to expose the present suppliers. We wanted to bring public pressure to bear on the minds of those people and allow the Minister a handle to tell these people. "Here is a question which is being pressed in Parliament from time to time. Here are people who feel very strongly that we can get oil from every quarter". If I do not make this explanation and if the observations remain as they stand, the intention of all the Members who were rising in their seats to put questions could have been quite misunderstood. It is just the other way round.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon (Mukandapuram): Mr. Speaker, Sir, our general complaint is that more secrecy should be kept as far as the Ministry is concerned about this par-