

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 58].

#### **P. & T. Training Centre for Mysore**

**1441. Shri Siddiah:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to start a centre for training candidates as telephone operators, clerks and postmen in Mysore city;

(b) if so, when the centre will start working; and

(c) whether such a centre will be started in any other place in Mysore circle?

#### **The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan):**

(a) to (c). The question of establishing a P. & T. Training Centre to cater to the needs of the Circles in Southern India is under examination. Some places in Mysore Circle, other than Mysore City, are also among those being considered for locating the Centre. The matter is, however, only in the exploratory stage.

#### **P. & T. Divisions in Mysore Circle**

**1442. Shri Siddiah:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to reorganise the P. & T. divisions in Mysore circle in view of the increased work; and

(b) if so, the details of the same?

#### **The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan):**

(a) and (b). *Postal and RMS:*

(1) To give relief to the Belgaum Division a new Division with headquarters at Bijapur was treated with effect from 15-2-1961.

(2) The Shimoga Postal Division was constituted on 20-7-1961 by reorganising the Bellary and Mysore Divisions.

#### *Telegraph Engineering:*

A proposal to split the Bangalore Telegraph Engineering Division and to create a new Division with headquarters at Mangalore is under examination.

12 hrs.

#### MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

##### FIRING AT SONEPORE

**Mr. Speaker:** There is an adjournment motion tabled by Shri Rajendra Singh. Now, Shri Rajendra Singh.

**Shri Frank Anthony (Nominated-Anglo-Indians):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member can make that point when we come to the Legislative Business, not now.

Now, Shri Rajendra Singh.

**Shri Rajendra Singh (Chapra):** On the 15th August, at Sonopore in Bihar State, the police opened fire, and several people had been injured. This morning, I have learnt that one of them has died in the hospital. All these things have happened in the railway colony.

The genesis of the trouble, as I know, is that some of the students who had been going to celebrate Independence Day were illegally and unconstitutionally arrested by the railway magistrate, and when some of the public men intervened and pleaded with the railway magistrate that these people should be enlarged on bail, the magistrate refused. Thereafter, the people felt agitated, naturally, under such circumstances. They collected on the road, and of course, they raised certain slogans. Those slogans were resented at by the administration there, and the requests of the people were replied to with bullets, for no reason whatsoever. I feel that this has been a grave injustice to the people, and I trust

that the Railway Minister will see to it—because the Ministry in Bihar is of his making—that there is a judicial enquiry. In the past when such things happened, the demand has always been for a judicial enquiry.

**Mr. Speaker:** Did the firing take place within the railway premises?

**Shri Rajendra Singh:** Yes, within the railway premises.

**Mr. Speaker:** Did the railway police fire?

**Shri Rajendra Singh:** Yes.

**Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad):** The railway police did not fire, but the premises were railway premises.

**Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati):** The State police have fired.

**Shri Rajendra Singh:** The State police fired in the railway premises.

**Mr. Speaker:** Did anybody die?

**Shri Rajendra Singh:** Yes, this morning I have learnt from Patna that one of them has died in hospital. Now, my only request is this. I am not saying anything this side or that side; this side may be correct or that side may be correct, or both of them may be incorrect.

What I am suggesting is this. My only request to the Prime Minister is that when such things happen, there should be immediately a judicial enquiry to find out the facts, and it should be immediate so that there must not be any attempt on the part of the administration to efface out the evidence.

**The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram):** I would not like to express any opinion as the hon. Member has done or indulge in mis-statements and incorrect statements as he had done in the notice which he gave yesterday. I shall mention briefly the facts as I am in possession of.

As a result of a spot-check conducted by the railway magistrate, Sonopore, at Sonopore station with 13 travelling ticket-examiners, one sub-inspector and 10 constables, commencing from 8 P.M. on the 14th August, 1961, 23 ticketless travellers were apprehended from trains reaching Sonopore on the night of the 14th August, 1961. They were charge-sheeted by the checking staff under section 12 of the Indian Railways Act, and pending trial were detained in the *meta* office which was being used as the temporary lock-up. At 1:30 A.M. on the 15th August, 1961, when 38 Down train arrived Sonopore, and as the first ticketless passenger by this train was apprehended, a mob of nearly 200 students who had come by the same train attempted to release the ticketless passengers. In the melee that ensued, all the apprehended ticketless travellers escaped, but the police arrested seven of the mob who had come to rescue them. The mob of 200 swelled to 500 by 3-30 A.M. on the 15th August, 1961. This mob insisted on the release of the seven persons and began to indulge in hooliganism, breaking glass panes of offices etc. Of the four armed constables inside the court room on guard, one was injured on his head as a result. The mob made an attempt to snatch rifles of the armed constables and pelted stones at them.

The District Magistrate, Chapra, was phoned at 4.15 A.M. the Superintendent of Police, Chapra at 4.50 A.M. and the SDO, Chapra at 5 A.M.; the Deputy Superintendent of Railway Police was also informed at Chapra at 5.02 A.M. One magistrate from Chapra arrived Sonopore by road at 9.55 A.M. and the SDO and the DSP arrived at 12-30 P.M. and they attempted to control the mob.

After their arrival, the seven arrested persons were sent to the GRP lock-up, and from there they were sent by road to Chapra jail at 11 A.M. on the 15th August, 1961, after the arrival of extra armed force from Chapra.

On coming to know of this namely that the seven arrested persons had been sent to Chapra, the mob moved towards the railway magistrate's residence at Sonopore and also held up the movements of all trains, indulging in violent activities like breaking electric bulbs, glass panes and station clocks etc., with the result that no train could move for the whole day from Sonopore.

All the persuasions of the civil authorities, having failed, unfortunately, at about 4:25 p.m., firing had to be resorted to by the civil police under the orders of the SDO, Chapra. The firing was not by the railway protection force; it was by the civil authorities. The firing took place near the Railway Magistrate's residence which is a railway quarter situated close to the railway station.

Again, here, I may make it clear for the information of the House that the railway magistrate does not belong to the railways but belongs to the State Government, and is, for all disciplinary purposes, under the control of the State Government.

Reports received indicate that there was no death or serious injury, though 8 persons were treated in the railway hospital at Sonopore for minor injuries. After the giving of first aid by the railway doctor, the injured were removed to the civil hospital at Hajipur.

The position gradually improved towards the evening, though considerable disruptions of train services had occurred. During the day, up to 8 P.M. only two trains could be started from Sonopore and all other trains had to be controlled short of Sonopore. As the position improved towards the evening, train services started with the departure from Sonopore of trains 81 Up and 35 Up combined at 9 P.M. and, thereafter, normal train running was resumed.

It was reported on the 16th August, 1961 morning that train running was normal except for heavy alarm-chain pulling on trains leaving Sonopore.

**Shri Rajendra Singh:** I have to say a few words. I also assure you that I will not indulge in any mis-statements or distortions. I would equally uphold the dignity of truth.

It is evident from the statement of the Minister that on the night of the 14th, 23 persons were arrested at Sonopur Station. It is the longest railway station in this country and even during the night many of us go there to receive our friends or to send off our friends. There is no arrangement for issue of platform tickets there. There is a conspiracy between the Central Government and the State Government to give deterrent punishment to my constituents simply because they have voted for me (*Interruptions*).

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. Let him resume his seat. I am not going to allow this.

**Shri Rajendra Singh:** On the night of the 14th, 200 students. . .

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member is doing the same thing. When once I am in possession of the House, hon. Members must be in their seats.

I have heard sufficiently about this matter. It is unfortunate that in his constituency this thing should have occurred. It is equally his responsibility to see that people in his constituency behave better. There is no good merely justifying the act of members of his constituency.

**Shri Rajendra Singh:** The Government should behave better.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is no meaning in trying to justify every act of ticketless travel. He tabled this adjournment motion yesterday. I told him that if I was satisfied that *prima facie* there was a case, I would bring it up here.

He came to me and said that there was a case of death and serious injuries also. Therefore, I wanted to know if such things could be avoided in the premises of the railways particularly on the 15th August when persons were going there. I wanted to know what exactly the situation was. In his own adjournment motion he says:

"For sometime past the Railway Magistrate at Sonepur and the ticket checking staff have started illegally arresting the people and imposing on them unwarranted penalties".

Therefore, ticketless travelling has been indulged in by a number of people and there has been a special check. A Magistrate was posted there and ticket collectors were checking. Then some people were arrested. According to the hon. Member himself, a number of persons were arrested. He wants to say that this is a conspiracy to arrest all the members of his constituency. Unless we are prepared to accept this—all the 500 odd Members here—we cannot do anything about it. He has not been very obstructive—though, occasionally he has been. Therefore, I do not find any necessity for the entire Government—not only this Government but also the State Government—to join together to see that the members of his constituency are oppressed like this. I hope and trust that he would himself go to his constituency and ask those people to refrain from travelling without tickets.

**An Hon. Member:** He will not be coming here again.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is unfortunate that when people are indulging in ticketless travelling and when steps are taken, the matter is raised in this way here. Every day some question is asked as to why ticketless travelling is persisting and what steps are being taken. When steps are being taken, when some people are arrested when there is hooliganism, and they stop the trains and so on, it is objected to.

I would therefore say that it is equally the responsibility of every Member of this House himself to chastise those people who resort to such things and bring them to order. In grave cases, I will certainly allow a discussion. But so far as this matter is concerned, I am exceedingly sorry that I cannot help the hon. Member. On the other hand, he should have advised people in his constituency not to do any such thing hereafter and to see that there is no: a single case of ticketless travel there and there is no cause for any such disturbance hereafter.

Let us now proceed.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I seek some information?

**Mr. Speaker:** No. The hon. Member comes from Assam (*Inter-ruption*).

In view of what I have said, I withhold my consent to this adjournment motion.

12.14 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER  
OF URGENT PUBLIC  
IMPORTANCE

FREQUENT BREAKDOWN OF POWER SUPPLY  
IN DELHI

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Pali):** Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Irrigation and Power to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"The frequent breakdown of power supply in Delhi and the steps being taken to remedy the situation".

**The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Hafiz Mohammed Ibrahim):** The total installed capacity of the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking is 77,500 KW and the derated capacity of the plant is about 72,000 KW. After providing for stand-by capacity and making allowance for periodical overhauls, etc., the available firm supply capacity of the plant is 57,900 KW. In addition, till the 13th instant