

SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR: It was myself and Mr. Sait who tabled it.

MR. SPEAKER: There cannot be so much difference between Mr. Nair and Mr. Gopalan.

I have seen it. There is not the remotest mention of Mr. Sreekantan Nair here. It may be another Question. I am told, in the ballot you lost. I am so sorry. I cannot make you Mr. A. K. Gopalan.

SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR: I had tabled the Question. That is my only claim.

MR. SPEAKER: We cannot depart from the rules. Shri A. K. Gopalan—he is also absent. I cannot help it. Next Question.

Loss Suffered by the Railways due to Students Agitation

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*24. **SHRI P. GANGADEB:**

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the agitations in the months of September and October, 1972 in the various States by the students and other elements, Railways were the main targets of attack;

(b) if so, in how many States the Railway stations were attacked;

(c) the total loss suffered by the Railways on this account, Zone-wise; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to safeguard the Railway property in future?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T. A. PAI) (a) to (d). A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The Railways were one amongst the other targets of attack in the various States during disturbances in the months of September and October 1972.

(b) In 7 States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu Railway Property were attacked.

(c) The direct total loss caused to the Railways in these disturbances is of the order of Rs. 4.39 lakhs. The details are as under:—

<i>Name of Railway</i>	<i>Loss Suffered</i>
	(in Rs. app.)
Northern	3,15,519
Northeast Frontier	32,100
North Eastern	971
Southern	6,338
South Central	338
Western	4,348
Eastern	79,600

(d) Continuous efforts are being made by the Railway Administrations to educate the public that destruction of any Government property much less the Railways would mean destruction of their own property and that they should not indulge in such acts. Appeals are frequently made by senior officers of the Railway administration to the citizens requesting them not to engage themselves in much destructive tasks. Other steps taken or proposed to be taken are as under:—

(a) *Steps taken to Safeguard Railway Property.*

(1) The Security branch of the Railways keeps close liaison with the executive and intelligence branches of the State Police, and they exchange information regarding matters affecting the running of the Railways and protection of important installations.

(2) Guarding of vulnerable points and patrolling of the track in vulnerable sections is taken up by the State Police or the Railway Protection Force as the case may be, when trouble is apprehended.

(3) In addition to strengthening the security arrangements at Railway Stations in areas where trouble is likely to occur, action is taken by the Government Railway Police and the Railway Protection Force to escort trains on affected sections.

(4) The local Police arrange patrolling near railway stations and the railway track adjoining educational institutions when required.

(b) *Steps Proposed to be taken*

(1) The Indian Railways Act, 1890 is proposed to be amended in order to make the punishment for destruction of railway property more deterrent.

(2) The Railway Protection Force is being re-organised in order to make it more effective in dealing with the law and order situation on the Railways in conjunction with the State Police, in addition to their normal duties of protection of railway property.

SHRI P. GANGADEB : I would like to know what are the latest measures that the Railways are initiating to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future and by when the Indian Railways Act, 1890, is to be amended.

SHRI T. A. PAI : Whenever there is any kind of agitation, railway property is now attracting the maximum damage. We are very much concerned that, in spite of the steps that we have taken to protect our property, these do not seem to be sufficient. Therefore, the Ministry of Railways propose moving and Amendment to the Indian Railways Act as follows:

Section 122 of the Act is proposed to be amended to make the punishment for trespass on railways and refusal to desist from trespass, more deterrent by raising the fine and the period of imprisonment.

Section 126 of the Act which deals with malicious wrecking or attempting to wreck a train, is proposed to be amended, in order to make the punishment for the same more deterrent. The existing provisions under this Section provide for punishment of not less than three years in case of a first conviction and not less than seven years in case of subsequent conviction. It is proposed to amend this Section to provide for the imposition of the death penalty in case of wrecking of trains where deaths have occurred.

The act of destruction of railway property is not covered under the provisions of Section 126 of the Act. The proposed amendment to this Section provides for the addition of a sub-section 126(a) to deal with acts pertaining to wanton destruction of railway track, bridges, Railway stations, installations and such other railway property. The proposed punishment under this Section would be for a term which may extend upto ten years.

SHRI P. GANGADEB : I would further like to know whether Government is going to have a mass education campaign on the lines of family planning propaganda to induct public property consciousness so that this basic measure can prove to be an effective deterrent against destruction of property.

SHRI T. A. PAI : Yes, Sir. I think, it is necessary to convince all these people who think that this public property can be wantonly attacked and that it belongs as much to the have-nots in the country as to the haves who are indulging in this and it would add to our impoverishment. While we are trying to educate the public.....

AN HON. MEMBER: They are not the only persons indulging in this.

SHRI T. A. PAI : Even the have-nots also have been joining in this destruction. I would request the House to give me support in order to see that whenever railway stations are wantonly destroyed, unless Parliament wants it, we do not repair them for some time so that the people may know to what inconvenience they are subjecting the rest of the public.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो रेलों में तोड़ फोड़ होती है किसी आन्दोलन के कारण क्या उसके पीछे जैसा कि सरकारी वक्तव्यों में कहा जाता है, सी आई ए का हाथ है? यदि हाँ, तो रेलवे प्रशासन ने अभी तक कितने सी आई ए के लोगों को पकड़ा है ?

दूसरी बात में यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो रेलवे के कर्मचारी हैं जैसे टी टी और गार्ड वगैरह उन पर भी कभी आक्रमण होता है और उनको जो मुआवजा दिया जाता है वह बहुत कम दिया जाता है तो उनके साथ मार पीट न हो, उनकी सुरक्षा का ठीक प्रबन्ध किया जाये, क्या ऐसी व्यवस्था सरकार करने जा रही है मन्त्री जी ने अभी एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में बताया:

अध्यक्ष महोदय: आप सीधे सवाल कीजिए ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मंत्री जी ने कहा कि हम सजा बढ़ाने के लिए विचार कर रहे हैं तो यह विचार कब तक फाइनल हो जायेगा ?

SHRI T. A. PAI : I would like to bring it before this session is over before the House and take the necessary powers. Whoever indulges in this kind of a thing will be liable for the same punishment.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : आपने सी आई ए के लोगों को पकड़ा है क्या ? क्या उनका हाथ इस तोड़ फोड़ में पाया गया है ? इस बात की जांच आपने की है क्या ? यदि की है तो कितने लोगों को आपने पकड़ा है ?

मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह था कि जो कर्मचारी है उनपर जो हमले होते हैं आन्दोलन के समय और उनकी जान की सुरक्षा का कोई उपाय नहीं होता तो उसके लिए क्या करने जा रहे हैं जो मुआवजा बहुत कम है उसको बढ़ाना चाहते हैं क्या ?

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a question.

SHRI T. A. PAI : It is our primary responsibility to look after those who are working in the railways and also the passengers who are travelling by our trains. Railway property and railway lines and the personnel have to be protected. We shall try our best and we will take the necessary steps.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : क्या सरकार ने इस बात की जांच की है ? सरकार की तरफ से ऐसे वक्तव्य आये हैं कि जहाँ तोड़ फोड़ होती है वह सी आई ए करवाती है तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार से कि रेलवे में जो तोड़ फोड़ होती है उसमें क्या सी आई ए के एजेंट हैं ? क्या रेलवे प्रशासन ने उनको पकड़ने का प्रयास किया है ? मंत्री जी हाँ या नहीं में उत्तर दें । . . . (व्यवधान) . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वह उत्तर दे चुके हैं । इस प्रश्न के स्कोप में यह सवाल पैदा नहीं होता । कोई रेफरेंस तो हो सकता है लेकिन अगर डिटेल्ड इन्फार्मेशन चाहते हैं तो सेप्रेट नोटिस दीजिए ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : इसमें सेप्रेट की क्या बात है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप धारण्य मत कीजिए ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : सरकार की ओर से वक्तव्य आये हैं कि देश में जो तोड़ फोड़ होती है वह सी आई ए के एजेंट्स के द्वारा करवाई जाती है तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ सरकार ने उनको पकड़ने का प्रयास किया है

क्या, ? रेलवे में जिसगी तोड़फोड़ होती है उसमें क्या ये लोग हैं ? यदि हैं, तो कितने लोगों को अभी तक सरकार ने पकड़ा है ? यदि नहीं तो मंत्री जी साफ-इनकार कर दें ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैंने कह दिया है कि यह इसके स्कोप में नहीं आता है ।

.. (व्यवधान) ..

श्री हुकमचन्द कछवाय : मैं आपकी व्यवस्था चाहता हूँ .. (व्यवधान) ..

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जो चीज इस सवाल से नहीं उठती है उसको आप कैसे पूछ सकते हैं ।

श्री हुकमचन्द कछवाय : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि रेलवे में जो तोड़ फोड़ होती है और उससे जो सरकार की हानि होती है उसमें क्या सी आई ए के एजेन्ट्स का हाथ है ? .. (व्यवधान) ..

श्री पीलू मोदी : जब हैन्ज की बात की, हैव नाइव को बात को तो मो आई ए को बात क्यों नहीं की । .. (व्यवधान) ..

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी : हां या नहीं में उत्तर मंत्री जी को दे देना चाहिए ।

.. (व्यवधान) ..

SHRI PILOO MODY : There is no technical ground on which you can rule out that question.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अगर स्पेसिफिक इन्फार्मेशन चाहते हैं कि कितने पकड़ गए तो उसकी प्रलाहिदा से नोटिस दें उसको मैं एडमिट कर लूंगा ।

श्री हुकमचन्द कछवाय : अध्यक्ष महोदय रेलवे में

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं इजाजत नहीं दूंगा । अगर इस तरह से आप हाउस को डिस्टर्ब करने तो बड़ा मुश्किल है

I am not going to allow it.

श्री हुकमचन्द कछवाय : सरकार से उत्तर मिल जाये । यह सवाल इससे पैदा होता है । रेलवे में तोड़ फोड़ हुई है । .. (व्यवधान) ..

MR. SPEAKER : I am very sorry. The hon. Member is defying the Chair in spite of my request to him to sit down. I am not prepared to allow it. I have said that he can give a separate notice.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA : The hon. Railway Minister has said that he is proposing to amend the Indian Railways Act, 1890 to make the punishment more sever to those who indulge in these kinds of activities. He sought the help of Parliament for not repairing those stations which have been damaged due to such movements by such people. Will he also consider, while amending the Act, to impose penalties on those areas and on those of the people there who indulge in such kinds of activities ?

SHRI T. A. PAI : The suggestion will be considered, and if the Parliament approves of it, I shall certainly endorse it.

AN HON. MEMBER : Parliament will not approve of it.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA : He will not approve of it, but he will allow destruction of national property?

SHRI R. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI : How are the poor people responsible for it ?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA : I was talking about those who were responsible for it.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : क्या ऐसी बातें करने से कोई फायदा होता है ? इस से हाउस का बर्त जाया होता है । आप सीनियर मेम्बर हैं, क्यों डिस्टर्ब करते हैं । इतने बचक मैं तो एक और प्रश्न हो सकता था ।

SHRI A. P. SHARMA : They want that those who are indulging in this kind of activities should be exempted.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member may say anything, but let him not indulge in putting the supplementary question twice.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: May I know whether it is a fact that in the seven States listed here in the statement, the ruling party, that is, the Congress Party is running the State Governments, and whether it is a fact that in most of the cases, it is because of the internal squabbles of the Congress Party, as between the members of the ruling party, that these things are happening? I have got proof with me, and I can establish it. The hon. Minister must answer it, and he must not evade the question.

SHRI T. A. PAI: I do not see any basis for such conclusions whether this is being indulged in by those who are opposed to the Government or those who are supporting the Government....

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: I did not say 'opposed' to the Government', but I said that this was indulged in by those within the Government, by a faction of the ruling party.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: May I ask one supplementary question?

MR. SPEAKER: Is he not satisfied with the supplementary question put by Shri Dinen Bhattacharyya?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: No, mine is entirely different.

MR. SPEAKER: But the party is the same.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: He did not reply to my question, but he has evaded it.

SHRI BISHWANATH ROY: May I know how far the efficiency of the Railway Administration suffered due to the students' destructive agitations in different States?

SHRI T. A. PAI: I think that the information is already contained in the statement. Apart from the direct losses, the indirect losses to the community are immense. We have been compelled to cancel the trains, and even prevent the movement of essential goods during the emergency, and, therefore, the total loss to the community is sometimes much more than what is calculated here.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: From the statement it is seen that the Northern Railway has suffered the most, which means the student agitation in Punjab was mainly responsible; I suppose that is what they have in mind. The hon. Prime Minister had said yesterday that the Government had definite information about the CIA activities in India, particularly mentioning about the student agitation in Punjab and the language riot in Assam. In that context, may I ask the Chief Minister.....

AN HON. MEMBER: He is not Chief Minister, but Railway Minister. Why is he demoting him?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I am not demoting him. Will the hon. Railway Minister kindly tell us if the Prime Minister's Secretariat had warned the Railway Minister in this regard, and if so, what the warning was and what steps were taken in this regard?

SHRI T. A. PAI: We have had no such warning at all. We know the damage only after we have suffered it.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: He did not catch my question at all. I have pointed out that the Prime Minister had said that Government had prior and advance information about this destruction and agitation. Were the railways warned in advance, and if so, what steps did they take in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER: He says 'No'.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I have got here a clear clipping from the papers. The Prime Minister has said so.

MR. SPEAKER : He says 'No'.

SHRI PILOO MODY : The Prime Minister wants to inform only the newspapers; she does not want the Ministries and the Government to know.

Closure of Dhuvaran Thermal Station in Gujarat

*25. **SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL :** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat State is confronted with a major power crisis with the closing down of a 140 MW. Unit at Dhuvaran Thermal Station which went into production only in the month of September, 1972;

(b) if so, the reasons for closing down this unit and the time by which it is likely to start functioning again; and

(c) whether this has necessitated 15 per cent power cut in Gujarat?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL):

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) There is a break down of the second 140 MW unit at Dhuvaran Thermal power Station. Restrictions on peak demand to the extent of 15 per cent and reduction in the number of working hours of agricultural loads from 24 to 20 hours per day had to be imposed due to non-availability of relief from Dhuvaran II Unit needed for making up the shortage in the State arising from reduced availability of power from the Tarapur Atomic Power Station.

(b) The second 140 MW unit had to be taken out of commission on the 9th October, 1972 due to a crack in the steam pipe leading from the steam chest to the stop valve.

(c) Necessary replacement of pipes arranged from abroad have been received at site and the necessary repair work is expected to be completed by the first week of December, 1972.

SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL : May I know whether it is a fact that in the States which are suffering from power crisis very much at present, ultimately industrial production and agricultural production are also suffering to a great extent? So what time will it take to give adequate power to agriculture and industry?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : As has been stated in the answer, the defect is expected to be rectified by the first week of December. We expect that then there will be no shortage in that State.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA : At present both the units, I and II, of the Tarapur Atomic Power Station are not working. When will these be put into operation?

DR. K. L. RAO : They are working partially. They are giving 150 MW of power in place of 400 MW. The units are being taken up gradually and it is expected that by June next year they will normally be completed.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : To overcome the present power crisis in Gujarat, will it not be possible to see that only high grade coal from the distant coal fields is actually transported to places like Gujarat, while only low grade coal is utilised for thermal power stations for generating electricity there? Also, is it not desirable that the different power systems are linked by a national grid system? If so, do Government propose to do so?

DR. K. L. RAO : The position in Gujarat is not so much difficult. The trouble arose because in one of the units, a very big unit producing 140 MW a pipe recently got cracked up. There was a serious defect in the steam pipe leading from the steam chest to the stop valve.