

Construction of Office Buildings and Community Halls

2624. SHRI TARA SINGH : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Co-operative Housing Societies in Delhi have been allowed to construct their office buildings and Community Halls without approval of their plans from the Ministry of Urban Development/M.C.D., D.D.A;

(b) whether some Societies in Delhi have constructed their office unauthorisedly and without the approval of plan by M.C.D; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Shortage of Water in U.P

2625. DR. SAKSHIJI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state ;

(a) the cities with population above 20000 in Uttar Pradesh facing acute shortage of water;

(b) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh have sent any scheme to the Union Government in regard to providing of drinking water to these cities and towns and have sought any assistance in this regard; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) Government of India is not aware of any cities in U.P. with population above 20,000 facing acute shortage of water.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

[English]

Foreign Investment in Sailing Vessels

2626. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the total foreign investment as on March 31, 1995 in merchandised sailing vessels upto 10,000 DWT and the number of such vessels in which foreign investment has been allowed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : The maximum carrying capacity of machanised sailing vessels ranges from 80 DWT to 900 DWT. These Vessels are constructed entirely in indigenus yards. No foreign

investment is involved in acquiring these vessels. In this regard, so far no proposal has been processed for allowing foreign investment.

Enron

2627. DR. SUDHIR RAY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether ENRON spent a colossal amount for the politicians and bureaucrats with a view to getting the Dabhol power project;

(b) whether the Government will start an enquiry on this; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATIN URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) No such fact of ENRON spending a colossal amount for the politicians and bureaucrate with a view to getting the Dabhol Power Project has come to the notice of Government of India.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

11.05hrs

MR. SPEAKER : The Statement may be made please.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

Train Accident Involving Purushottam Express and Kalindi Express Near Firozabad

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is with deep anguish that I apprise the House of an unfortunate rear end collision between 4023 Kalindi Express and 2801 Purushottam Express at Firozabad station on Allahabad Division of Northern Railway, on 20.8.1995 at 0255 hours.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla) : Hon. Prime Minister does not have full knowledge. Firozabad is not near Allahabad. It is nearer to Delhi and Agra. It is very sad that inspite of holding charge or Railway Department the Hon. Prime Minister does not know where the Firozabad is located. He is saying that it is near Allahabad...(Interruptions)

Even the Prime Minister did not visit the spot of accident. He was making merriment here.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please. It is in Allahabad Division.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : The accident occurred when 4023 Kalindi Express on run from Farukhabad to Delhi was held up near advance starter of Firozabad station owing to a hose pipe disconnection on account of a cattle run over case.

In the meanwhile, 2801 Purushottam Express finding all the signals green and which was running on the same line occupied by Kalindi Express, collided on its rear end resulting into derailment of the six rear coaches of Kalindi Express and locomotive and eight coaches of Purushottam Express and caused blocking up through traffic. In this accident, as known so far, 251 persons have lost their lives and 230 persons sustained injuries.

Relief trains with medical equipments and team of doctors were rushed from Tundla, Kanpur, Agra and Delhi. In addition, local doctors with ambulances rushed from local hospitals of Tundia, Agra, Etawah, Mainpuri and Ferozabad and rendered medical assistance to injured persons. Later on, the injured were admitted to the various hospitals where they are progressing.

On receipt of the information I requested my colleague Shri Mallikarjun to proceed to the spot immediately and he along with the Chairman, Members, Traffic and Electrical, Advisor Signals, Railway Board, proceeded to the site of the accident. The General Manager, Northern Railway had earlier rushed to the site with Heads of the Departments and team of doctors for providing medical relief and for restoration operations.

Ex-gratia payments have been arranged to the next of kin of the deceased and to the injured persons. Stranded passengers were cleared by a Special Train from the site of accident at 8.25 hours. Arrangements have been made to facilitate travelling of the relatives of the injured and dead passengers to the site of accident by special trains.

Prima facie, the accident took place due to human error. The Commissioner of Railway Safety, Northern Circle, New Delhi will be holding Statutory enquiry to the cause of the accident.

All railwaymen and I myself express our deep condolences to the bereaved families and also express sincere sympathies to the injured. We have already adopted the Resolution expressing our sympathies to the bereaved families.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, let us discuss this issue. I have received the names of the Hon. Members who would speak first. I will request Shri Vajpayeeji to speak and then followed by Shri Somnathji and Shri Paswanji. Then other Hon. Members may also have the opportunity to speak.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (ROSERA) : Sir, we have given notice for discussing this issue under rule 184. We want to censure the Government. This is not just a discussion.

Sir, I have given two notices. One, for discussing this issue under rule 184; second, for discussing it under the Adjournment motion... *(Interruptions)* We have given notice for discussing this issue under the adjournment motion as well as under rule 184. We want to discuss this issue under that motion. We want to censure the Government. This is not a discussion only... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Sir, the discussion should be held under the Adjournment motion. We want to censure the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : We were in the train following that train. On more accident would have taken place. On the route on which we were travelling by train, would have seen another accident. The train was plighted on and abandoned track.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That is why I requested the leaders of the different Parties to meet in the chamber of the Speaker. We did discuss it. Of course, who is responsible and whether the Government can be held accountable for what has happened is certainly a question the Hon. Members would like to ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You will be given opportunity to express your views.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Would you allow me to regulate the proceedings of the House? Now, that is why it was agreed that we will pass the condolence resolution and I would ask the Government to make a statement and immediately after that start the discussion. Now, if we have to follow any other method then there are certain difficulties which I would not like to discuss on the floor of the House. So, in our judgement and wisdom we have come to this conclusion. Please cooperate.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (CUTTACK) : Sir, why we demand the discussion to be held under an adjournment motion is...

MR. SPEAKER : I will explain it to you in the chamber. I cannot explain it to you here.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : It is a very serious matter. Kindly consider our views.

SHRI ANIL BASU (ARAMBAGH) : What is the motion before the House under which we can start the discussion?... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are well within your right to point out the defects of the persons who might have been

responsible for this. And, if you want to discuss the defects in the policy or the technology, you would be allowed to do that. There are certain other things. Mr. Jena, if you had come to the meeting, you would not have raised this point. You had agreed to come but you could not come. I will explain it to you later on.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : It is a matter of the policy being pursued by the Ministry of Railways.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : We want to censure the Government. (Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : We all agree with you, Sir, we can discuss this matter as directed by you. We are demanding the Adjournment Motion because while the Hon. Prime Minister has said that 251 people have died, the Report says that so far more than 600 people have died. Our concern is, if the Prime Minister was here in Delhi itself, why did he not rush to the place where the accident has taken place? It is really very shocking.

MR. SPEAKER : You will get the opportunity to say all these things.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : What is more shocking is that a wrong signal is being given by the Prime Minister himself. We are not politicising the issue, rather we are expressing our concern. It is not an issue to be politicised.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : We want to censure the Government. It is the policy, that is being followed by the Government, that has led to such a disaster.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : A Congress delegate to the conference was travelling in this train. She herself told me that more than 1,500 people have died. It is a very serious thing.

MR. SPEAKER : Geetaji, you will be allowed to speak.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : It is not a question of the number of deaths that have taken place.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (KATWA) : Why the Government on its own has not declared it National Day of Mourning?

SHRI ANIL BASU : What is the motion before the House?

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA (BALASORE) : We are much more concerned about the gravity and seriousness of the situation. We should be allowed to have a discussion on the floor of the House. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJE (BOLPUR) : No doubt, we had some discussion in your Chamber and I do not

wish to refer to that on the floor of the House. But, we had said that there are Adjournment Motions also in this regard. I submit that in view of the strong feelings of the House, it could be discussed as an Adjournment Motion here and now.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Speaker, Sir, if my Party colleagues have remained silent, it was in deference to what we had discussed in your Chamber. The Members of my Party, indeed the representatives of the area where the accident has taken place, are highly aggrieved. The Leader of our Party was himself delayed as his train was delayed because of this accident. He reached here late. He said that if in the Speaker's Chamber a decision was taken, we will abide by that. We are abiding by that, but I appeal to you that what is required is reconciling of two things. Firstly, a discussion relating to the totality of this very big, perhaps unprecedented, accident that has taken place. And the other, which I think flows out of the first and with which this House is seized, is the answerability and accountability of this Government. How do we get answerability or accountability or put this Government on the mat if we have simply to talk the whole thing out? That is what is agitating us.

If a reconciliation can be made between these two, as my friend Shri Somnathji has said, if you in your wisdom could give a direction that this discussion that is now starting following upon the Hon. Minister's statement will take the shape and has an element of censure, the House certainly wishes to censure the Government. That is all that I wish to say.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for suspending zero hour.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have suspended it soon, that is why you have got annoyed with me.... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : No Sir, you have done well. Condolence resolution has been passed in the House. I would like to know as to whether discussion will be held under any rule in spite of suspending of question hour?

MR. SPEAKER : Yes.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, if discussion begins under any rule, then there are two motions given by us before you-one is adjournment Motion and another is given under rule 184. These motions can help in fixing accountability of the Government. We take it as granted that it is a total Government failure. This is not the first incident of its kind. Similar discussions have already been held several times in this House. It seems that there is a sequel of train accidents. The life of the people is totally unsecured. Just now one of my friend was saying that Lal Bahadur Shastriji was exemplary person who had resigned on such an occasion. In this very House, Madhav Rao Scindia had also resigned. Today, Railway Minister is not

present here. He is staying in London. The Hon. Prime Minister is responsible for this. Whether he owns its responsibility or not. He did not even visit that spot as a Railway Minister...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You have no powers to say like this.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I would like to discuss this issue in detail. But it is necessary for a meaningful discussion that you should take it up as an Adjournment Motion so that the Government could be held responsible and made to reply properly in this regard.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, it is not a question of individual responsibility. The question is not of a lineman or a guard who is responsible. It is a question of the approach of the Government to the development of Railways. The Prime Minister is responsible not only as the Railway Minister but as the head of the Government. The whole approach of the Government towards development of Railways and other public sector activities is connected with this kind of accidents. Had it not been so, the series of accidents that have taken place, and this unprecedented one that has taken place yesterday would not have been there. Therefore, it is not a matter of only condoling the deaths and it is not a matter of only pinning down an individual here or there as responsible or for negligence of duty. It is a matter of the Government's approach to the public sector and railway enterprise. The issue is one of censuring the Government and Adjournment Motion is the proper method to deal with this thing and the Government has to answer to this. That is the question.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : I would like to know about the rule under which this discussion is going on*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You do not ask question. You have no right to question me. If at all you want to ask, you can ask as a point of order. It is very difficult to let you know all the procedural points here.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : My point of order is that we would like to know as to how this is being discussed.

MR. SPEAKER : It is alright. I will tell you.

(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : Hon. Speaker, Sir, two motions were brought in this House and we have also given our Call Attention Notice. Our interest is that this issue should be discussed ~~there~~ on the floor of the

House as to where lie the lacunae and loopholes. That is why it is being done. Serious accidents have occurred in this country four times earlier. If one accuses the Government, it is of no use....*(Interruptions)*... Please hear me. After going into the matter it is found, according to the Hon. Prime Minister's statement, that the lineman who had given a green signal is mostly responsible for it.

We discussed in our Railway Budget the approach of the Government to the development of Railways. If that discussion is to take place here all over again, it will be of no use. For the present, matters like 'what relief measures have been taken', 'why such an accident occurred there', 'and how many people have been provided with some sort of relief', should be discussed.

All these have to be discussed and finally we shall take a decision on what measures should be taken by the Government.

My humble submission to the Hon. House and to the Hon. Prime Minister is that the Hon. Prime Minister should go in for a high level probe into the matter and a Committee of the House should immediately visit this spot to find out what is going on there....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, I would like to speak....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basudeb Acharia should have his say.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, considering the seriousness of the accident, you have suspended the Question Hour. Sir, you have observed the sentiments of the Members of this House. Considering all these things, Sir, you kindly admit our Adjournment Motion. We want to censure this Government because the Government policy is responsible for this type of accident. Sir, similar type of accidents had taken place with/in two months.

MR. SPEAKER : You will have time to express all these things.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, we want to censure this Government and we want to hold this Government responsible for this accident. Sir, you kindly admit our Adjournment Motion. Let the discussion under the Adjournment Motion be started immediately.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt me when I am speaking because I am not a very tenacious person to have the link of the statement that I want to make when you are interrupting or you are putting forth some very intelligent points, to understand the intelligent points and then to make a statement.

You know, this issue was discussed precisely for these reasons in the Meeting and I must say, in all fairness to the leaders, that they also thought that this matter should be discussed under Adjournment Motion. But then there is a procedure laid down for all these purposes and unfortunately I had to speak about ~~the~~ procedure on the floor of the House.

When you give an Adjournment Motion, it can be taken up at 4 p.m.

(interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : That can be waived....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You have again started the same thing. You do not cooperate until I raise the pitch of my voice. This is not good.

[English]

Well, that is one thing. Then, there is one more requirement. When you give a notice of an Adjournment Motion you do not want to take the Government by surprise. You shall have not only to give the copies to the Speaker before 10 a.m. every day, the day on which you want to take it up but you are duty bound to give a notice to the Minister concerned and to the Parliamentary Affairs Minister also so as to keep his Members ready if the question of voting arises. Unfortunately, I do not think that these things have been done.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Yes, I have given a notice to the Parliamentary Affairs Minister because I have given four copies as per the rules....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Paswan, you might have given these copies to us. We are not expected to send them to the Minister. You are duty bound to send them to the Minister.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : This is always done....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Moreover, you were so agitated. So, I thought that the Question Hour should be suspended and immediately an opportunity should be given. Otherwise it was not necessary for us to suspend the Question Hour and we could have gone ahead with the Question Hour, Without suspending the question hour, you could have done your duty in holding the Government accountable by asking the questions as well as the Adjournment Motion. But, in our wisdom, when we discussed this matter in the Committee, we thought that this was a matter on which the Members were likely to be agitated. One Member from Firozabad had come to me and he was actually in tears when he said that he would like to speak on this accident. I thought that we should respect his feelings also and immediately we should take up this matter. So, we decided it. Either this should be decided by the Speaker, for which the authority is given or by the Members of the House. I have not done it on my own. I have discussed with the Members, with the leaders. And even after that, if there are dissenting voices, it becomes very difficult to have a procedure for a discussion on a subject like this also.

Please do not it. If you say that the Government could have thought about the procedures to be adopted is responsible for this accident, the Government or the technology to be adopted and all those things, you are well within you right.

But if you insist on an adjournment, I would ask you to follow the procedures because nothing should be taken up in a manner which takes the Government also by surprise.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : We have followed all the procedures.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : We have given four copies of the notices.

MR. SPEAKER : You have to give it to the Minister and not to the Speaker.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : It is always done. In the past also, it was done.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Basudeb Acharia, I am sorry. I am not a teacher. I am not a professor to explain the procedure all the time.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is your interest? You are interested in criticizing the Government holding them responsible.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : We are not criticizing.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : The only point is whether the Government is*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : You have to send it to the Government.

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow that but I will take it up at Four o'clock. I am not ready to take it up by surprise.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : It is alright Sir, you take it up at 4 o'clock only....*(Interruptions)*

As an Adjournment Motion.....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now if it is done, they will take up the financial business and complete it. I am willing for that.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : We do not want anything less than an Adjournment Motion.

MR. SPEAKER : You should have come to the Committee meeting also.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : You did not invite me. Those who had been invited, attended that meeting....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Mr. Jena.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : It's alright. You take it up at four o'clock only....(Interruptions) as an adjournment motion.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : There is a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : I will not do that because I do not want to take the Government by surprise. I will have it only at Four O'clock.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, more urgent than this...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot. You should not force that kind of thing on me.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : We are not forcing upon you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : OK Sir, we cannot force...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If the Government had sufficient notice, I would have done that. But in view of the fact that what we have discussed, I am not going to do that.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Please refer to Rule 61. You are aware of all these things.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. Let us understand that it should not become a practice in the House to discuss the Speaker's Ruling all the time. This is not done. It has become a practice that the Members want me to explain what is the law. This is also not practised. I am doing it. Though I have the discretion and the authority, I have not done it at my discretion and authority. I have done it after consulting the Members of the House. And even after that, do you want to follow the procedures? What are we doing? We are quarrelling with

the decision of the Speaker. We are quarrelling with the procedures. We are not attaching importance to the substance. This is not correct.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I request you to take it up right now rather than at 16.00 hours....(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : We are merely submitting that the Adjournment Motion can be taken at 16.00 hours or earlier in terms of Rule 61

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : My only submission is we are not taking the Government by surprise. The Government is fully aware of this incident. The Government is fully prepared. So, the Prime Minister has already made a Statement. The entire information is with this Government. So you can advance the timings and right now we can have a discussion on the Adjournment Motion. The Government is well aware of all these things.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Mr. Parliamentary Affairs Minister, what do you want to say?

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE) : Before that you know the rule. Please let me read it out. It says that you can take it up at 16.00 hours or even before that.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Look, if the matter is serious and you want to speak...(Interruptions) then I will allow you...(Interruptions) Your repeated attempt....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : We honour your views. We want discussion to be taken up....(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : I would like to submit that you called the leaders to the Chamber and we had a rather detailed discussion about the procedures that we would follow. And unanimously it was decided that we should hold discussion on this matter as quickly as possible. If it was decided that the question would be discussed under Adjournment Motion, then the Question Hour would have gone on and at Four o'clock, the Adjournment Motion would have taken up.

This matter was also discussed and then it was felt by the leaders that rather than postponing the discussion till Four o'clock it would be better....(Interruptions) I am only explaining the agreement that was made.

It was felt that it would be better that after conveying the condolences of the House the statement will be made and you will allow a discussion on the statement and not clarifications which is not allowed.

MR. SPEAKERS : That is right.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, it was decided that discussion will take place immediately because there is an important matter on which discussion should take place and the Members present in your Chamber had already agreed and we had also agreed and we were following that procedure. Now, Sir, you are quite right to say that if the Adjournment Motion had to be moved, then the Question Hour would have gone on and the other business would have gone on upto Four O' clock and the Adjournment Motion would have been taken up then as we could not be ready immediately for the Adjournment Motion. A certain time has to be allowed to the Government to get ready for the debate on the Adjournment Motion...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You are ready for it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, they are ready for a discussion and not for Adjournment Motion. This is the main problem...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, the decision was to allow a discussion immediately after the statement of the Hon. Prime Minister. That was the decision.

MR. SPEAKER : That is right.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : After that procedure, my request to you is that the procedure that was decided upon should be followed here...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal speak on it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (AZAMGARH) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, please allow me. I am on a point of order...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : Sir, now as the House has agreed you were kind enough to do the first thing which was very necessary and that was to convey our condolences to the bereaved members of the families of those unfortunate people who were killed in the train accident and those who were injured in it. We did our duty as the representatives of the people. The first thing to do was to convey our condolences and that was given priority over everything else, even the Question Hour.

Now, after that, a statement has been made from the Government. It is correct that we all agreed in your chamber only with this view seeing the importance of this that no other business should be done except to discuss this serious train accident which has taken place. That was the way to give proper importance to this aspect. But now, seeing the feeling in the House, and as you have also kindly agreed, maybe that you may accept it as an Adjournment Motion because the Adjournment Motion has also been moved,*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH) : Is this a point of order?

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : Sir, the only question is whether the Adjournment Motion should be taken up at Four O' Clock or can it be taken up earlier. The Rule 61 about the Adjournment Motion says and I quote :

"The motion 'that the House do now adjourn' shall be taken up at 16.00 hours or at an earlier hour if the Speaker, after considering the state of business in the House, so directs."

Sir, my request will be that having agreed that this discussion should have priority over everything today in the House, I would request you that as the Rules give you this authority and this power, by seeing the mood and feelings in the House, no technicality according to the rules should be taken up and you should kindly agree that the Adjournment Motion could be taken up and discussions on the Adjournment Motion are held now...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : That is not a point of order.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, discussion is being held on the most horrid train accident so far. We initiated the discussion in the right perspective. We expressed our grief over the untimely death of those who dies in it and conveyed our condolences to bereaved families. It is very unfortunate that the manner of debating this issue should become a matter of controversy now. If our friends wanted to insist on the adjournment motion many of my party colleagues have also given notices to this effect then they should have made their stand clear during our meeting with you that they want to censure the Government and want to discuss this issue through an adjournment motion.

I do not think that there should be any difficulty for you to concede to the Members' demand in this regard. But those members get entrapped in difficulty who try to get the decision, once taken, implemented. The question of train accident is not a party question in the least. Moreover, there should be no question of who shall first move the adjournment motion from the opposition because there will be a ballot.

MR. SPEAKER : There will be a ballot and discussion will take place at 16.00 hours. Voting on it will be held at 18.30 hours. We will have only two to two and a half hours.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Two and a half hours! God knows whose name will come up at the ballot.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : He, whose name comes up at the ballot will speak. What is wrong in it?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : You speak without your name being called.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the more we are talking at random about it, the more are we underestimating the seriousness of this train accident.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : We want to show our seriousness on this issue through an adjournment motion. You are rather underestimating it. It is the individual party ideology..... (interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The House is supreme. We can decide in what form this discussion should take place.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the more this controversy is acquiring new dimensions, the more this issue is losing its importance. I do not want that such a controversy should be raised. I would urge upon you to accept the demand of some of our Hon. friends to discuss this issue through an adjournment motion. I would also request you not to take decisions by calling the party leaders in your chamber because in the absence of enforcement, those decisions are rendered meaningless.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I do have the authority to decide and I will be able to decide. But then, I think that the senior Members, the learned Members, as they keep cooperating with me, will continue to cooperate with me.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : One minute, sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, shall you take your seat after I am on my legs or shall I take my seat after you are on your legs?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Please carry on.

MR. SPEAKER : You make your point. I will speak later.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I have nothing to say except clarifying that I was a bit late and thus, nobody could represent our party.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I was told that Mr. Jena was to attend.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Nobody informed me.

MR. SPEAKER : My office tells me that Mr. Jena was to attend the meeting. Anyway, it is not necessary. Leave that now.

[Translation]

Look, I would request you not to make it a prestige issue unnecessarily. It is at the time of voting that you finally decide on what to do. You have every right to criticise the Government. In view of this you are being given time to exercise this right. If we go by the whole procedure there are many adjournment notices. They shall have to be balloted and then discussion would start at 16.00 hours.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Is this the way you cooperate with me, Mr. Basudeb Acharia?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, I am cooperating with you.

MR. SPEAKER : You please cooperate just by keeping quiet. I will read this. It is unfortunate that I have to read these Rules on the floor of the House. Rule Nos. 61 and 62 say :

" The motion ' that the House do now adjourn ' shall be taken up at 1600 hours or at an earlier hour if the Speaker, after considering the state of business in the House so directs.

The Speaker may, if he is satisfied that there has been adequate debate, put the question at 1830 hours or at such other hour not being less than two hours and thirty minutes from the time of commencement of the debate".

We have to start the debate at Four o' Clock and we have to vote at 1830 hours. I am doing all these things because, you know, Kasmir Budget has to be discussed and many Members had told me in my Chamber that they would be interested in discussing the Kashmir situation also and they should be given full opportunity to discuss that.

Then, you have raised one issue relating to the criminalisation, That matter is also pending with us. There are other issues which have to be discussed and then there are Bills which have to be passed. So, I have to taken into account the totality of the business which has to be transacted. When the Hon. Members speak on the floor of the House, they consider only the issue which is before them and they do not consider all other important issues which is before them and they do not consider all other important issues which they have to discuss. Now, if you are attaching importance to this issue exclusively and not attaching importance to the other issues, well that is a different matter. But if you are interested in discretion with the Presiding Officer ultimately to decide which Mr. Basudeb Acharia appears to be not doing all the time. He is all the time pushing for his point of view and very rightly and very strongly which is appreciated outside but here it creates problems for me. That is why I would pleasd that if you wish that it has to be taken up as Adjournment

Motion, then it can be taken up at Four o' Clock because the trains have not come and because the Members also might not have been explained and we are meeting immediately after the Question Hour and then the Kashmir issue has to be taken up. I will take up the Budget of Jammu and Kashmir immediately, follow up the entire procedure and allow the opportunity to have the discussion on the adjournment motion. Here I do not want any more discussion because I do think and I do agree with the senior Member of the House that by discussing on procedure and not discussing the substance, probably the seriousness of the subject would be reduced. Please understand this. Is the Government agreeable to this?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we take up the Kashmir Budget. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Firozabad) : Sir, it is a serious matter. What is this happening? *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Sir, why not the question Hour? (Transetation) You have suspended the question Hour. It should be taken up. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

AN HON. MEMBER : Sir, what about the question Hour?

MR. SPEAKER : The question Hour is gone.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : The seriousness of the matter in being under-rated by referring to the rules. Hundreds of people have lost their lives there *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I Will request you,

[Translation]

It is not so. I do fully appreciate your feeling and express my all out sympathy particularly with those M. Ps. who come form the area where accident has taken place.

[English]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, the question Hour was suspended only with the understanding *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a gross injustice. We should be given the opportunity

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : What is happening here? These leaders decide something with you and speak totally different things here *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALRAJ PASSI (Nainital) : Why are not we given opportunity to speak? *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing to being discussed here. Neither Kashmir nor accident issue is being discussed.

[English]

Please understand the situation. In the House somebody has to decide and if nobody decides, then nothing is coming on record. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Please listen to me.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : The question Hour has been suspended.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Sir, what ever happening is not good *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, may I take a submission?

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Please listen to my point of order *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not complicate the whole procedure of the House. This is not good. You will be given the opportunity to speak. Unfortunately, we do nothing for the people who have lost their lives but you will be given the opportunity to speak. Your speech will not do, it should be in order.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No Qustion Hour now. The question hour is gone.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Papers to be laid on the Table of the House-Shri Balram Singh Yadav.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I may tell you that you should refrain from such things. It does not behove of you. Your such behaviour is telling upon the dignity of the House.

(Interruptions)