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Title: Need to provide adequate facilities to railway gangmen in order to facilitate proper checking of railway tracks.

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE (KALYAN): Thank you, Deputy Speaker, Sir. I want to bring to the notice of this august House about a recent incident of the death of a gangman who was on duty between Thane and Mulund. A number of such accidents happen day in and day out. The reason for this is less number of staff in a unit of a gangmen. One unit of gangmen should consist of 11 people, but 5-6 gangmen are working nowadays in a unit. These accidents are prone to occur due to increase in workload and less number of staff. The reasons for such accidents are also due to the fact that they are not following the Banner Flag Protection rule, which was followed very strictly earlier. This should be carried out by the Engineering Department, which is not being done nowadays.

Another point is that detonators -- that are to be installed at 45 metres from the workplace -- is also not followed. So, I would request the Ministry of Railways to make it compulsory to install buzzer system and also detonators, which will alert the gangmen and save their lives.

The other important issue is track maintenance, which is to be done by the gangmen only. It is executed through contractor system, which is done by untrained labourers, which is putting lives of lakhs of commuters at stake. In a recent incident, in my Constituency, four derailments have occurred. So, I would request the Ministry of Railways that track maintenance should be done by trained gangmen. The Rail Kamgar Sena has also raised this issue several times.

So, through you, I would request the Railway Minister to look after the condition of all these tracks, and not neglect the safety of these tracks and lakhs of commuters. Thank you.