

12,52 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE-FIRE ACCIDENT
TO 327 UP NAGPUR PASSENGER
ON RAJNANDGAON-DENGAR
GARH SECTION OF S.E. RAIL-
WAY ON FEBRUARY 23, 1985.**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : I deeply regret to apprise the House of a tragic fire on a passenger train resulting in loss of life on 23.2.1985.

At about 00.45 hrs. on 23.2.1985, while 327 Up Nagpur Passenger was on run between Musra and Jatkanhar stations of Durg-Dongargarh broad gauge double line section of Nagpur Division, two coaches, both second class, were noticed to have caught fire. The train was stopped at Km. 915'15 after passing Musra station. In this accident, 34 persons lost their lives and 14 sustained injuries including 8 grievous and 6 minor. In addition, 2 persons sustained trivial injuries. They were given first aid and discharged. Subsequently, one injured person succumbed to his injuries in the hospital.

A railway medical van along with medical team from Dongargarh was rushed to the site and arrived there at 2.15 hrs. After rendering first-aid at the site all the injured persons were taken to Rajnandgaon Civil Hospital. Later, one boy aged 20 years was shifted to Bhilai Steel Plant Hospital.

The fire in the first coach was extinguished at 3.30 hours and in the second at 7.30 hours on 23.2.1985.

Chief Commercial Superintendent, South-Eastern Railway, a senior officer who was travelling by Geetanjali Express reached the site at 5.50 hours. Divisional Railway Manager and other Divisional Officers, Nagpur reached the site at 8.15 hours. General Manager and other officers from Headquarters rushed to the site by a special train. Chairman, Railway also visited the site on 24.2.1985 and met the injured in the hospital.

Ex-gratia relief has been sanctioned to the next of kin of those who died and to the injured persons.

An Ad-hoc Claims Commissioner has been appointed to decide the claims for compensation in this case. Maximum amount payable is Rs. 1 lakh. The compensation due in each case of death and permanent disablement is Rs. 1 lakh and compensation payable to injured persons varies from Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 1 lakh according to the nature of injury for which a schedule is prescribed.

My colleague, the Minister of State for Railways and I are watching the safety performance of Railways and we have initiated more intensive safety measures. I have issued a 10-point Action Plan to this effect and the results are being monitored. I fully share the anxiety of the House and assure that safety will continue to be our prime concern.

12,55 hrs.

[English]

Election to Committees (i) Indian Nursing Council

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : On behalf of Shrimati Mohsina Kidwai, I beg to move :

“That in pursuance of sub-section (1) (o) of Section 3 of the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Indian Nursing Council, subject to the other provisions of the said Act.”

The motion was adopted.

(ii) National Welfare Board for Seafarers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : I beg to move :

“That in pursuance of Rule 4 (h) of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers

[Z. R. Ansari]

Rules, 1963, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from among themselves to serve as member of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers, subject to the other provisions of the said Rules."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of Rule 4 (h) of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers Rules, 1963, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from among themselves to serve as member of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers, subject to the other provisions of the said Rules."

The motion was adopted.

12.58 hrs.

*Lok Sabha Adjourned for Lunch Till Fourteen of the clock.**The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at three minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir . . .

MR. SPEAKER : No. No discussion please. The ruling is firm and final. Discussion is a discussion. Whatever points may come, they come and we will see later on. No question of discussion, now. Discussion is a discussion. Points can be brought by five people and they can be brought by ten people. No. I don't agree. This is a House of 540 people.

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : But Sir . . .*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing goes on record. I do not think that I am unfair. I have never been unfair, whatever I may think. Now, Shri Braja Mohan Mohanty.

14.04 hrs.

Calling Attention to Matter of Urgent Public Importance

[English]

Recent espionage activities by certain persons and revelation of leakage of Government and national secrets in some sensitive Ministries.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri) : I call the attention of the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :-

"The recent espionage activities by certain persons and revelation of leakage of Government documents and national secrets in some sensitive Ministries and the steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : Sir, On January 18 this year, the Prime Minister had made a statement in both the Houses disclosing the existence of an espionage network involving leakage of sensitive and classified documents from certain offices and Ministries of the Government of India. In the course of the statement, the Prime Minister had also mentioned that certain persons holding sensitive positions in the Government were responsible for this leakage and passing on this information to unauthorised persons. On January 21, I had come before this House and provided some more details of the case which had by then become available. I had given an assurance that no one who was involved in this kind of activity would be let off and that investigations would be pursued vigorously.

As the hon. Members are aware, the espionage activities involved leakage of classified and highly sensitive documents containing strategic information of considerable value. Quite a few original documents were also recovered. The investigations so far has revealed the existence of a well organised conspiracy, trad-

* Not recorded.