

15.31 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE ACCIDENT TO BANGALORE—NEW DELHI KARNATAKA EXPRESS ON 18.4.1989 ON BINA-JHANSI SECTION OF CENTRAL RAILWAY**

[*Translation*]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): I deeply regret to apprise the House of an unfortunate accident to train No. 927 Down Bangalore-New Delhi Karnataka Express at about 14.36 hours on 18.4.1989 on the Bina-Jhansi double line section of Jhansi Division of Central Railway. While this train with two engines and 21 coaches was on run between Lalitpur and Dailwara stations, twelve coaches marshalled 9th to 20th from train engines derailed, of which 9 coaches—10th to 18th—capsized. Due to this derailment, as per available information, 67 persons lost their lives and 137 persons sustained injuries.

Immediately on receipt of information about the accident, Medical Relief Vans from Jhansi and Bina were rushed to the site. Divisional Railway Manager, Jhansi along with his officers immediately left for the site of accident.

General Manager, Central Railway accompanied by other senior officers left from Bombay by air to oversee the relief arrangements.

My senior colleague, Shri Madhavrao Scindia proceeded to the site by road and remained there through the night to meet patients in the Hospitals and oversee rescue arrangements. Member Engineering, Railway Board also left for the site from New Delhi.

The injured persons were taken to the Civil Hospital at Lalitpur soon after the accident. The local civil administration and people of Lalitpur also responded promptly and rendered valuable assistance in rendering medical aid to the injured.

Arrangements were made to transfer 32 of the injured persons to Railway Hospital at Jhansi the same evening.

The stranded passengers and those of the injured who wanted to continue their journey after medical aid were cleared by the various trains viz., Jhelum Express, Shatabdi Express and G.T. Express. A special train was also run from Jhansi to New Delhi to clear all the left-over passengers of Karnataka Express.

The Railways had also made special arrangements at New Delhi station for medical attention to the injured arriving by the various trains. 12 of the injured persons were taken to the Railway Hospital at New Delhi for further attention. Ten of these have already left the Hospital.

Ex-gratia relief to the next of kin of the identified dead and to those with grievous and simple injuries is being arranged. This will be in addition to the compensation payable to the injured and to the next of kin of the deceased under the directions of the Ad-hoc Claims Commissioner to be nominated by the Uttar Pradesh State Government

Commissioner of Railway Safety, Western Circle, under the Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism who also reached the site will commence the statutory inquiry into this accident from 21.4.1989.

I and my senior colleague, Shri Madhavrao Scindia and all railway men and women extend our deep condolences to the kith and kin of those who lost their lives and sincere sympathies to the injured in this unfortunate accident. I am sure that the House joins us in extending heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): The hon. Minister has just now said that 67 people have died and hundreds injured. We should share the sorrow and agony of the

[Sh. Janardhana Poojary]

bereaved families. Sir, with your permission, we may stand in stand in silence for a short while.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no procedure like this.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): You can make an exception.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no precedent. But as the House desires, I would request the hon. Members to stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

*The Members then stood in silence for a short while*

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): We want to know the reasons of the accident.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can raise a discussion according to the rules.

15.38 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1989-90

**Ministry of Agriculture-Contd.**

[Translation]

SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE (Nasik): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Agriculture. The debate on agriculture has been going on for many days and a number of hon. members of this House have put forward their suggestions.

Even after 40 years of independence, we have not been able to do justice to the farmers even though majority of the Members of this House represent the farmers. All the Members in this House are unanimous on the point that justice needs to be done to the farmers. The poor people and the poor

farmers are given prime importance in every Five-Year Plan and in almost every annual budget. Revered Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru had said that our struggle would continue till every poor man and farmer in the country is able to lead a dignified life. I am not saying that the Ministry of Agriculture has not made progress. It certainly has made progress but the implementation of the decisions taken by the Centre is not satisfactory. The recurrence of drought in the last 3-4 years adversely affected small and marginal farmers. Farmers having 40-50 acres of land could not grow anything in the absence of water for irrigation. Indian agriculture is dependent on rainfall and in its absence the farmers do not have any thing to eat. But last year we had good rains. Hon. Prof. Ranga expressed regret over farmers being subjected to injustice. I agree with him on this issue. The Finance Ministry, Agriculture Ministry and the Commerce Ministry should hold consultations regarding the fixation of remunerative price for agricultural produce at a time when it is marketed.

The Government gives financial and other assistance to any engineer who sets up his factory in an urban area. The Government is prepared to write off the loan if the business fails. On the other hand farmers do not get remunerative prices for his produce in the market. The hon. Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi announced that the Agriculture prices Commission would be reorganised. But we think it will not do any good as it will be composed only of bureaucrats who know little about the intricacies of agriculture. The farmer works 18 hours out of 24 hours on his field. In a city if a person works 2 hours more than the stipulated 8 hours he is paid overtime.

The whole family of the farmer works on the field for 18 hours and when the Agriculture Prices Commission fixes the price of the agricultural produce it is more concerned about how much of the burden the price will have on the public. That commodities should be available to the public at low rates is understandable but for that the Government