

STATEMENT RE. ACCIDENT TO THE
122 UP NEW DELHI—MADRAS TAMIL
NADU EXPRESS ON 7.11.87

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : Sir, I deeply regret to apprise to House of an unfortunate train accident involving 122 UP New Delhi-Madras Tamil Nadu Express at about 13.35 hrs on 7.11.1987 on the Amla-Nagpur Broad Gauge single line section of Nagpur Division of Central Railway. The accident occurred between Katol and Metpanjara stations about 50 Kms. short of Nagpur. The train had a load of 21 coaches. The engine and the first 8 coaches passed the site of accident safely while the remaining 13 coaches, 9th onwards from the train engine, derailed/capsized. I regret that, as a result of the accident, 2 passengers lost their lives including one in the hospital, 13 persons suffered simple injuries and 19 grievous.

Senior Officers from Nagpur and from the Zonal Railway Headquarters at Bombay rushed to the site of accident. Member Engineering, Railway Board also rushed to the site. Later Member Traffic left for Nagpur.

Immediately on receipt of the information, medical vans were rushed from Ajni and Amla. Railway doctors also rushed to the site from Nagpur by road with ambulances. Local doctors from Katol, Kalameshwar and Pandhurna also rushed to the site and rendered medical assistance. The injured were moved to the Railway and Civil Hospitals at Nagpur where further treatment is following.

Ex-gratia payment to the next of kin of dead and to the injured has been arranged.

The stranded passengers were cleared from the site by special buses and by the unaffected coaches of the train. They were further cleared by a special train from Nagpur.

Joint checks of accident spot by Railway and Civil Authorities as also by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Central Circle have been conducted where-

after restoration work has been taken in hand in full swing. Though Communication was restored at 11-15 hours on 9.11.87 at stop Dead 10 KMPH Speed restriction, one goods train has already passed over the affected section. 15 DN and 16 UP G. T. Express will run via the normal route. Joint checks have revealed that track keys for about 200 metres at the site of the accident were missing, indicating possibilities of track having been tampered with.

Commissioner of Railway Safety, Central Circle working independently of the Ministry of Railways will hold a statutory inquiry into the accident from 9.11.87 at Nagpur to determine the cause of the accident.

14.09 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE.
APPROVAL OF CONTINUANCE IN
FORCE OF PRESIDENTIAL PROCLA-
MATION IN RESPECT OF PUNJAB—
Contd.

[Translation]

CH. SUNDER SINGH (Phillaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was saying that the number of violent incidents in Punjab and some other places is increasing day by day. There must be an end to it. What I feel is that the situation has become very serious.

I belong to Gurdaspur. Whosoever speaks against extremism, he is killed. Every M.P. and M.L.A. in the State, irrespective of his party affiliation, has been provided with 25 security personnel. Some people belonging to Jat Community met me and requested me to do something to apprehend the extremists and prevent massacre. It has been observed that majority of Sikhs are against extremism. The Harijans are also raising the 'Hathh-kanda' slogan and asking for separation. To-day everybody should realise that India is ours and all of us belong to India. You people have dispossessed us of our land and started ruling over us. Followers of every religion should take a vow that they will live together in spite