

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : In the *suo mottu* statement made yesterday, the House was apprised of the accident.

AN HON. MEMBER : What is this ? She is making a statement on accident everyday ?

MR. SPEAKER : She is to go to the Upper House. We will continue this discussion after the statement.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : This is with reference to her statement made yesterday.

18.07 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE : COLLISION OF
162 DOWN TRAIN NEAR
GARWA ROAD**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : In the *Suo Moto* Statement made yesterday (6.8.86), the House was apprised of the unfortunate collision between the parted portion of a goods train and 162 Down Amritsar-Tatanagar Express between Garwa Road and Tolra station on the Garwa Road-Barka Kana Section of the Eastern Railway. I visited the site of accident as also the injured in the hospitals and it is with a heavy heart that I stand to place before the House further facts in regard to the accident. In the first place, I have to express my deep regret and sorrow over the accident, the loss of lives and injuries caused to innocent passengers.

One empty goods train with 43 Box wagons left Garwa Road at 2.06 hours and passed the next station at Tolra at 2.38 hrs. This train was going to patratu for loading of coal. 162 Down Amritsar-Tatanagar Express left Garwa Road at 2.55 hours in the same direction. The goods train had parted in Garwa Road-Tolra Section and 5 empty box wagons and the brakevan

Tolra, failed to observe that the complete train had not run through the station, and gave line clear to the next train, Amritsar-Tatanagar Express. The Railway staff at the next station Rajhara were more alert and reported to the control that the complete goods train had not arrived at their station. This was reported by the staff at Rajhara to the Control at 3.04 hrs. An order was immediately given to stop all trains in both the sections. However, unfortunately, Amritsar-Tatanagar Express had already left Garwa Road and it collided with the parted portion of the goods train at about 3.10 hours.

On receipt of the information about the collision, immediate action was taken to muster medical facilities. Railway doctors from Garwa Road reached the site at 4.30 hrs. on foot and rendered first-aid to passengers. A medical van with doctors came from Barwadih and reached the site at 5.00 hrs. Doctors, D.C. and S.P. Daltonganj, also rushed to the site at once by road. All the injured were removed to Garwa Down/Daltonganj Civil Hospitals by 7.30 hrs. by train. Local citizens also helped considerably in the relief work. Meanwhile, the medical vans from Gomoh and Chopan had also been rushed.

As a result of the collision, the brake van of the goods trains, two empty box wagons, the train engine of the Amritsar-Tatanagar Express and first coach next thereto, which was a luggage van-cum-Second class fell into a nallah. The second coach, which was a sleeper coach, stopped on the pier of the bridge of the next line, and passengers in that coach suffered only minor injuries.

The reason for parting of the goods train and the subsequent collision will be examined in detail by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Eastern Circle, in the course of a Statutory Enquiry, which has been ordered. *Prima facie*, however, the accident appears to have occurred due to failure of railway staff to observe rules regarding check of complete arrival of a train before granting line clear to the following train. Administrative action has been taken against the officials found *prima facie*

Before I left for the site of accident, I had reported death of 32 persons and injuries to 36. I regret that as of now 44 bodies have been recovered. The engine of the train is still to be taken out of the Nallah. The exact number of bodies would be known only after the engine is taken out. The number of injured persons is 37. Instructions have been given to advise the relations. Identification of the dead bodies is in process by the State Government officials.

As a measure of immediate relief I have ordered ex-gratia payment of Rs. 5,000 each to the next of the kin of the dead; Rs. 1,000 each to the grievously injured and Rs. 250 each to those who got simple injuries. As the Civil Hospital at Garwa Road Daltonganj are not adequately equipped, I have given instructions that a mobile X-ray plant should be moved from Eastern Railway Hospital at Calcutta so that X-ray of passengers can be taken. I have also placed an amount of Rs. 50,000 at the disposal of Deputy Commissioner, Daltonganj. We have kept two railway doctors and welfare staff at both these points to keep a liaison with the civil doctors for any assistance that may be required to help the injured.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Deo...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
There should be a discussion on this.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Tomorrow.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
Under 193 ?

MR. SPEAKER : Yes.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar) : What has happened to the Minister of State for Railways ? He is not to be seen at the moment.

AN HON. MEMBER : She is supposed to be in charge.

MR. SPEAKER : She is in charge. What is there to be asked about him ?

Mr. Deo.

18.11 hrs.

MOTION RE : PRESENT SITUATION
IN SOUTH AFRICA - Contd.

[English]

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO (Parvathipuram) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support my colleagues from all sides of this House to give support to the people of South Africa in their heroic struggle against racism. The oppression that the people of South Africa have been facing at the hands of the racist regime is probably the worst crime that has been perpetrated against humanity in recent times. I am glad that the stage has come when certain countries like Australia and Canada have also come to support this movement against racism. It was very creditable on the part of the six countries, in the mini-Commonwealth Summit, to have been able to isolate Great Britain on the issue of economic sanctions. It is unfortunate that the logic which Mrs. Margaret Thatcher has been giving for not imposing these economic sanctions is a logic which can keep the Blacks of South Africa forever under the clutches of their racist white. The Prime Minister of Britain has said that it is the Black who will suffer. This may be true. They may suffer for a short while, but this has to be looked at from a long term point of view. I wonder whether Mrs. Margaret Thatcher's worry is actually suffering of the Black people of South Africa or whether she is actually worried about the economy of Britain itself. Unfortunately, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher seems to entertain the same mercenary policies and tendencies which Britain once followed when they had vast colonies. I think, behind this denial to support the economic sanctions was her own interest within her economy in the country. While we have to pursue this matter further, I would also like to add to what the other hon. Members have said about trying to isolate companies which operate from South Africa or have any kind of dealings with South Africa. I think, our country should refrain from having any kind of understanding or deal with any such company, whether they are from South Africa or outside.

Apart from imposing economic sanctions, I was wondering whether the leaders