

Annual Report and Review on the working of small Industry Extension Training Institute Hyderabad for 1983-84 and Statement for delay in laying these Papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): I beg to lay on the table-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Small Industry Extension Training Institute, Hyderabad, for the year 1983-84 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Small Industry Extension Training Institute, Hyderabad, for the year 1983-84.

(2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1133/85].

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh. Statement to be made by Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh. He is not there. Is Mr. Poojary here?

Shri Bansi Lal.

12.45 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: (i) COLLISION OF 138 UP AMRITSAR-BILASPUR CHHATISGARH EXPRESS WITH DOWN TUGHLAKABAD GOODS TRAIN AT RAJA-KI-MANDI STATION OF CENTRAL RAILWAY ON 13.6.1985; AND (ii) COLLISION OF A PRIVATE BUS WITH A GOODS TRAIN AT A MANNED LEVEL CROSSING GATE BETWEEN DR. RADHAKRISHNAN NAGAR AND MORWANI STATIONS OF WESTERN RAILWAY ON 16.6.1985.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL): Sir, I deeply regret to apprise the House of two unfortunate train

accidents on 13.6.1985 at Raja-Ki-Mandi near Agra and on 16.6.1985 at Dr. Radhakrishnan Nagar near Ratlam.

On 13.6.1985, 138 Up Amritsar-Bilaspur Chhatisgarh Express bound for Bilaspur collided with a goods train bound for Tughlakabad at Raja-Ki-Mandi station. The accident occurred a few minutes after Chhatisgarh Express started from Raja-Ki-Mandi station where it had a scheduled stoppage. As a result of this collision, 40 passengers lost their lives, 15 sustained grievous, 18 simple and 9 trivial injuries. The cost of damage to Railway property has been estimated at Rs. 6,30,000/- approximately.

A Medical Relief Van was immediately rushed from Agra Cantt which arrived at site with 2 railway doctors and other paramedical staff. Simultaneously, assistance was sought from Sarojini Naidu Hospital, Dr. Sarkar's Nursing Home and the army authorities for medical aid. Civil, army and railway doctors rendered first aid and rushed the injured to local hospitals at Agra.

My colleague Shri Madhavarao Scindia alongwith Member Traffic, Railway Board, rushed to the site of accident for overseeing the relief arrangements. They called on the injured who were admitted in the local hospitals. Divisional Railway Manager, Central Railway, Jhansi alongwith other senior officers including the Medical Superintendent, rushed to the site from Jhansi immediately on being informed about the accident. General Manager, Chief Traffic Safety Superintendent and the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Central Circle, also reached the site later from Bombay.

For relief operations, the Railway Accident Relief Train was sent from Agra Cantt. Civil authorities, with the help of the local residents also gave help in the rescue operations.

Ex-gratia-relief was arranged on the spot to the next of kin of those who died and to the injured persons.

An ad-hoc Claims Commissioner is being appointed to decide the claims for compensation in this case.

The Commissioner of Railway Safety, Western Circle, functioning independently of

[*Sh. Bansi Lal*]

Railways under the Ministry of Civil Aviation & Tourism, has conducted a statutory enquiry into this accident. His Preliminary Report has since been received. According to his Provisional Finding, the probable cause of accident was manipulation of the point detection relay without physical verification at site. The Report is under examination. I will like to assure the House that staff responsible for the lapse would be severely taken up. Already 7 employees have been placed under suspension.

The other unfortunate accident took place at Dr. Radhakrishnan Nagar at a manned level crossing on 16.6.1985, when a private bus collided with a goods train resulting in casualties. As a result of the collision, 15 bus passengers lost their lives, 28 sustained grievous injuries and 16 minor injuries.

Immediately on receipt of the information, Railway Medical Van doctors and paramedical staff were rushed to the site of the accident from Ratlam. Railway doctors and other senior officers also left for the site by road. Civil authorities also rushed to the site and arranged transportation of the injured to the local hospital without loss of time. General Manager, Western Railway, and the Chief Traffic Safety Superintendent rushed from Bombay.

12.48 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the chair*]

My colleague Shri Madhavrao Scindia, accompanied by Member, Mechanical, Railway Board, Visited the site of accident and called on the injured persons in the hospital.

Ex-gratia payment to the next of kin of the dead and to the injured persons were arranged.

This accident has been enquired into by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, North Eastern Circle. According to his findings, the collision took place due to the private bus attempting to cross the Level crossing whose gates were kept open to road traffic in the face of an approaching goods train. The Assistant Station Master

of Dr. Radhakrishnan Nagar station and Gateman of the Level Crossing have been held responsible for the collision. They have been placed under suspension and FIR has been lodged against them. Disciplinary action against them is being initiated.

I would like to assure the House that every possible effort is being made to minimise the number of train accidents. I have recently constituted 4 High Level Safety Teams to carry out intensive inspections on all Zonal Railways, particularly of those sections which have larger incidence of accidents. These teams shall directly report to the Railway Board and the action taken on their report would be monitored at the highest level.

12.51 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: CRASH OF AIR-INDIA JUMBO JET 'KANISHKA' ON 23RD JUNE, 1985

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): Sir, an Air India Boeing 747-237B aircraft 'Kanishka' operating a scheduled flight, AI-182, Montreal-London-Delhi-Bombay with 329 persons on board including 22 crew members crashed on 23rd June, 1985 in the Atlantic Ocean about 185 nautical miles southwest of Shannon (Ireland) at about 0713 hours GMT, corresponding to about 1243 hours IST. The aircraft was cruising at a height of about 31,000 feet at that time.

Search and Rescue operations were initiated immediately. No survivors were found. This was the worst disaster in the history of civil aviation in India. Our hearts go out in sympathy to the bereaved families.

On receipt of the information, action was immediately initiated in accordance with the contingency plan for dealing with accidents. Emergency Cells were constituted at the booking offices at Bombay and Delhi airports. Facilities for providing information to all concerned were made available. I sincerely regret the inconvenience caused to