

Injuries were admitted in Northern Railway Central Hospital. In addition, about 49 persons who sustained trivial injuries like abrasions, bruises etc. were discharged after first aid and were allowed to continue their journey.

General Manager, Northern Railway, accompanied by a number of Railway Doctors and other senior officers of the Northern Railway rushed to the site to supervise relief and rescue operations. Chairman, Railway Board and Member Traffic visited the site. The Minister for Railways accompanied by Railway Board officials also visited the site and met the injured in both the hospitals.

The Minister for Railways has sanctioned an ex-gratia relief of Rs. 5,000 to the next of kin of each of the dead and to those whose limbs may have to be amputated. Other grievous injury cases and simple injury cases will be given an ex-gratia relief of Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 500 respectively. This is in addition to the ex-gratia payment sanctioned by the General Manager, Northern Railway.

The Commissioner of Railway Safety who is an independent authority working under the administrative control of the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation is commencing his inquiry to-day.

13.00 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Shri Birendra Singh Rao on behalf of Shri R. V. Swaminathan, may move the motion.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: Sir, with your permission, on behalf of Shri R. V. Swaminathan, I move the following:—

“That in pursuance of Section 5(1)(i) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from among

themselves to serve as members of the Animal Welfare Board for the next term commencing from the date of election, subject to the other provisions of the said Act.”

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:—

“That in pursuance of Section 5(1)(i) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from among themselves to serve as members of the Animal Welfare Board for the next term commencing from the date of election, subject to the other provisions of the said Act.”

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Matters under 377. Shri Subodh Sen.

13.02 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) REPORTED SUSPENSION OF MOVEMENT OF COAL BY RAILWAYS TO TEA GARDENS IN WEST BENGAL

SHRI SUBODH SEN (Jalpaiguri): It is reported that the Director, Movement, Railways, Calcutta, has issued an order, by which for all practical purposes the movement of coal to Tea gardens in West Bengal will remain suspended in the month of July. The peak-monsoon season of July, August, September, gives the highest-amount of tea in the North East India. Any dislocation of coal supply in the month of July may lead to stoppage of tea manufacture. This may eventually lead to lay-off of several lakhs of workers in the North East part of our country, the part that has become so very sensitive of late. Any stoppage of tea-manufacture will also cost the exchequer a sizeable amount of revenue and foreign exchange earnings. The Government of India should do the needful to avoid this catastrophe.