

We cannot understand the attitude of the Minister. According to me, the main reason for the accident is the callousness of the authorities, as no proper checking was done before the train left Lucknow. The driver of the engine has stated that there was no headlight, and the lights in the entire train were not working. But the authorities have presented a different story, i.e. of everything being in order. There is a contradiction between the actual figures, and the figures given to the House and the hon. Members.

Few days back, similar accident took place in Dhulabari which we have already discussed here. It was stated in this House that investigation is going on but what is the outcome of the investigation, that has not been known. Who was the person at fault behind that accident, that has not been told. I think, everybody remembers that when there was a major accident some years back, when Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri was the Railway Minister, he was bold enough to take upon himself the responsibility of that accident and he resigned from the Ministership. But here, the Minister has not even accepted the failure of the administration. If such things continue, then how the working of the Railways and the safety of the passengers could be ensured? Therefore, I would like to know whether the Government will hold a high-power judicial enquiry to go into the whole incident and whether adequate compensation would be paid to the victims and whether the Government would give a categorical assurance to the House that in future no such accident will take place? I am surprised to hear the new concept of the accident. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the extent of this accident according to the Railway terminology. Last of all, I would request the hon. Minister to lay on the Table of the House, a list of the railway accidents that took place since he assumed the portfolio of the Railway Minister.

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI : I have already replied to all the points.

14.33 hrs.

RESIGNATION OF MEMBER

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have to inform the House that the Speaker has received a letter from Shri Virbhadra Singh, an elected member of this House from Mandi constituency of Himachal Pradesh resigning his seat in Lok Sabha. The Speaker has accepted his resignation with effect from 17 October, 1983.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now statement by the Minister.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (New Delhi) : Before you call upon the Minister to make the statement, I want to make a small submission. The statement should be comprehensive covering not only the import of tallow but also its adulteration. Last time he unnecessarily indulged into party politics. I hope, he will be more objective this time...

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur) : Sir, why cannot you have full discussion? Instead of making a statement, why don't you have a full discussion?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You give notice for that...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now statement by Minister.

14.34 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : IMPORT OF ANIMAL TALLOW

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : With your permission, Sir, I wish to make

this statement to inform this House of the various steps that have been taken by Government pertaining to the import of animal tallow.

2. As the Hon'ble Members are aware, on 24th August, 1983, Import Trade Control Order No. 27 was issued under Section 3(3) of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947, prohibiting clearance for home consumption of beef, buffalo and pig tallow, in any form, imported into India. This extraordinary steps was taken in deference to the sentiments of the people.

3. As a matter of abundant precaution, on 1st October 1983, orders were issued banning altogether the import of any other type of animal tallow, for any purpose whatsoever.

4. The net effect of the various measures adopted is that import of animal tallow has been completely banned for any use whatsoever.

5. Apart from tightening the regulatory provisions pertaining to import of animal tallow, the Enforcement machinery has also swung into action. The Enforcement staff of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports has carried out large number of inspections, and wherever inspections have shown any incriminating evidence, the grant of further import licences and allotment of imported material to the firms, in question, has been kept in abeyance for a period of six months during which investigations are expected to be completed. The number of such firms is 146. In 11 cases, complaints have been lodged with the Central Bureau of Investigation. The CBI have already registered FIRs in 8 of these cases. Proceedings have also been initiated under the Imports (Control) Order with a view to debarring the concerned persons and firms from receiving further import facilities on the basis of the alleged offence of unauthorised importation. I assure the House that Government will take stern action against those found guilty.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Mem-

bers, this is a *suo motu* statement made by the Minister. If anybody wants any discussion, you may give notice.

We will now take up the next item, to be moved by Shri N.R. Laskar on behalf of Shri P.C. Sethi.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : We know how to give notice for a discussion. When he makes the statement, he should not tell us only about import. It is not a question of only import ; it is a question of using it for adulteration.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can write to the Speaker and have a discussion. Now it cannot be done. There can be no question or discussion on the statement made by the Minister.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : People are worried about adulteration.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY (Bombay North East) : Are you for adulteration ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can ask for a discussion.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : What about the adulteration case...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members can give notice. BAC is meeting today and you can have a discussion...(Interruptions) We are not stopping any discussion in this House. The Speaker has made it very clear that he shall permit any discussion in the House, provided it is according to the rules.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : As far as discussion is concerned, Government is also keen for a discussion and making everything public, whatever has been done...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is good that Government is also keen for a discussion.

(Interruptions)