

12.21 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE. REPORTED DEATH
OF SOME PERSONS IN BIHAR AS A
RESULT OF POLL CLASHES AND
POLICE FIRING ON 10TH JUNE 1977.**

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (CHAUDHURI CHARAN SINGH): Sir, while the polling has been generally peaceful in rest of the country, the occurrence of a number of incidents on the first day of polling in Bihar on 10th of June is deplorable. I am also deeply grieved that persons have been killed in the course of these violent incidents.

From the reports so far received from the Bihar Government it is found that in the course of inter-party clashes fire arms, bombs and other lethal weapons were freely used. There were also attempts to capture polling booths. The administration intervened promptly and prevented interruption in the polling and foiled all attempts to capture the polling booths. Out of nearly 16,000 polling booths, re-polling has been recommended in only 3 cases by the authorities.

In the incidents reported on 10th of June, 20 persons lost their lives and about 40 were injured. The figure of 40 includes an accidental death of an employee from a rifle of a Home Guard. The police opened fire on 9 occasions to prevent capturing of booths, loss of life and property and maintenance of law and order. These were at Thitkia (District Aurangabad), Kokarsa Bhagwanpur (District Gaya), Keraaj (District Patna), Siani, Samaskurd and Pasand (District Monghyr), Laukahi and Pirahi (District Madhubani) and Ram Thadhi (District Santhal Parganas): However, there has been no report of any death or injury as a result of the above police firings.

The worst affected constituency was Goh which accounted for 4 serious incidents involving the death of 16 per-

sons. In Village Sagarpur, there was a violent clash in which fire arms and explosives were freely used resulting in 8 deaths and injuries to 12 persons. In Village Jhitkia, there was a similar clash in which two persons were killed. In Villages Salempur and Haspora of this constituency also, there were violent clashes between supporters of rival candidates.

In the Paliganj Assembly Constituency of Patna District, a supporter of an Independent candidate was killed by some miscreants in Village Faurania, P.S. Bikramganj. In the same constituency, the supporters of an Independent candidate opened fire near the polling station at Village Korai which resulted in gun shot injuries to one person. There was an exchange of fire between miscreants and the police party and a jeep belonging to culprits along with arms was seized.

An armed mob attacked the Polling Booth No. 113 in Village Siani in Sheikhpura Constituency. The police opened fire in self defence. One person is reported to have died and another injured as a result of bomb explosion. Similarly in Village Samaskurd in Barbigha Assembly Constituency, an armed mob attacked the polling booth with fire arms and bombs. The police party opened fire resulting in the dispersal of the mob. A cracker was also exploded at Ratanpur near Ward No. 8 of Begusarai Town causing minor injuries to some persons.

In a clash between supporters of rival parties in Village Kokarsa Bhagwanpur, P.S. Ghosi, District Gaya, two persons are reported to have lost their lives. The patrolling police party also opened fire to disperse the clashing mob but there is no report of casualty as a result thereof.

The Bihar Government have seized considerable arms and ammunition and about 50 persons have been arrested including four Independent candidates.

[Chaudhuri Charan Singh]

The incidents are indeed very unfortunate and I take this opportunity of expressing my deep sympathies to the families of those who lost their lives. The State Government have been advised to ensure prompt investigations into these incidents in order to take early action under law against the guilty. The Bihar Government has been alerted and are taking appropriate steps to ensure peaceful and orderly poll. We have also advised them that firm action should be taken against those responsible for creating disturbances.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): What about other States?

12.28 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET, 1977-78—GENERAL DISCUSSION

MR. SPEAKER: We shall now take up general discussion on the budget. Twelve hours have been allotted for this. If hon. Members make short speeches we will be able to give chances to a large number of Members.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): This is also an important thing.

MR. SPEAKER: That will not be taken up along with this on the same day. There may be half a dozen important things but relatively important things we can take up one after the other. Every day you are to say something or the other. Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu is not here. Otherwise he and some of you will say something every day. Why don't you come to the Chamber? Mr. Qureshi was good enough to come to the Chamber. You did not care to come to the Chamber. I am not going to allow it.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I sent you a letter.

MR. SPEAKER: No please. The letter is there. It will be considered. Unless the Speaker calls you, you cannot get up.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I sent a note regarding 377.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Will you please sit down? I am on my legs. As far as 377 is concerned, it can be considered if the Speaker permits. I am not permitting.

What is the question?

(Interruptions)

Nothing will be taken down.

(Interruptions)

Order please.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: You send me out.

MR. SPEAKER: I won't send out anybody. I did not do it last time and I will not do it now.

(Interruptions)

Nothing is now being noted. You cannot simply get up and do every thing. Mr. Lakkappa, I have not called you, Mr. Pai.

SHRI T. A. PAI (Udipi): Sir, before the Railway Budget was presented by the Railway Minister, he had made a statement regarding accident to train No. 13 UP Tezpur Express. The statement incidentally mentioned that it was an act of God. I do hope that the functioning of the Ministry will not be an act of God hereafter because I would like to point out that there are many things and if we are not looking into them, they will continue to be an act of God resulting not only into disastrous accidents but disastrous functioning of a very important institution.