

**Rotting of sugar stocks at Bombay and Kandla Ports**

3938. SHRI YADVENDRA DUTT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether seventy thousand tons of sugar has rotted in the Port of Bombay as reported in *Times Of India* dated the 27th July, 1978;

(b) if so, the causes of this loss;

(c) the total money value;

(d) who is responsible for it; and

(e) is also more suger rotting at Kandla Port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) and (e). No, Sir. The following stocks of sugar from 1976-77 crop are available at Bombay and Kandla godowns of S.T.C.

Bombay 5400.7 MT

Kandla 1280.1 MT

(b) and (c). Because of long storage some deterioration quality of sugar is expected. The loss on this account has not been assessed and would be known only when this sugar is sold.

(d) In the circumstances no particular authority or person can be held responsible for some deterioration in quality expected due to long storage.

12.00 hrs.

**RE. LOOTING OF A RAILWAY TRAIN BETWEEN BHOPAL AND BINA**

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): Sir, I want to raise a very important matter today. Between Bhopal and Bina, a train was looted. Is this the

way people are going to be treated? (Interruptions)

SHRI RAGAVALU MOHANARANGAM (Chengalpattu): We want a categorical answer from the Home Minister. He should give an assurance that he would take action against the officer who refused to entertain the complaint unless it was in Hindi. (Interruptions) We want an answer from the Prime Minister. This matter was reported in the press.

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record.

(Interruptions)\*\*

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Idukki): I am stating the matter for the information of the House. (Interruptions) This is a very, very serious matter. It is merely a matter concerning language. A train is robbed; and when the affected party goes to the police, the police say that they will not take the complain unless you give the complaint in Hindi. (Interruptions) This is a matter of denial of elementary protection to the citizens of the country. (Interruptions)\*\* passengers who have boarded the train are under the protection of the Central Government, and they are not given any protection. When they put in a complaint, the complaint is not taken. The reasons is—not that there is no ground for complaint, but—that the passengers' complaint is not in Hindi. (Interruptions) I would appeal to my friends on the other side. They must appreciate the feelings on this side. They must appreciate the feelings of the the passengers. Don't add insult to the injury: that is what I would appeal to them. The elementary right of the citizens is not given. (Interruptions) On behalf of the Opposition, let me have the facility to explain my point of view to the House. (Interruptions) I do not understand the meaning of

\*\*Not recorded.

of the assurance at all. Repeated assurances are given. I know this matter was raised in the Rajya Sabha the previous day. And I would have expected the Minister to come here and give the report to this House. I would have expected the Minister to come to this House on his own and to make a statement. Unfortunately, this incident has occurred. (*Interruptions*) It is not as though the Minister did not know it. His notice has gone to the fact of the incident by the statement in the other House. It was reported in the Press also. He did not come to this House and make a report to the House stating that this had happened....

MR. SPEAKER: Will you allow him to make a statement? You have not allowed him make a statement. Why do you not allow him?..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: The Prime Minister has given an assurance; Ministers had been giving assurances. I want to know whether this government's writ runs in the country. The Prime Minister assures us here; he says that he is issuing orders and directives. Does the writ of the Prime Minister run in this country? The Railway Minister repeatedly makes assurances....

MR. SPEAKER: I have called him.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: What is the meaning of this assurance? Your writ does not run; the writ of the Prime Minister does not run in this country; it is not accepted by the government, by the officers. People are being harassed. We cannot accept this sort of insult; it is the denial of the basic right of the people of this country.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister..... (*Interruptions*) You have had your say. Let us hear the Minister's statement.

SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR (Quilon): On a point of order. I gave notice under 377.

MR. SPEAKER: That is considered separately.

SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR: You throw away the rules?

MR. SPEAKER: Today No. 377 had been selected.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANAVATE): Mr. Speaker, I fully share the indignation of the hon. Members.... (*Interruptions*) Probably some of the hon. Members on this side have not seen the report that has appeared in *The Hindu*. The report that has appeared in *The Hindu* is bound to irritate and agitate the minds of friends who do not know Hindi.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly allow him to make the statement.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE: In the report that has appeared in *The Hindu* dated 10th August 1978, one aspect is about robbing of passengers and the second important aspect, which is very dangerous, is that when the passengers who had suffered at the hands of the robbers got down at Bina Station and went to the police who function under the jurisdiction of the State Government... (*Interruptions*). It is mentioned here.

MR. SPEAKER: You were heard for a long time. Why don't you hear him?

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE: It is reported that when they tried to lodge a complaint with the police at the above station, there the G.R.P. functioning under the State Government, it is reported, said that they will not take the complaint if it is in English and they must give it in Hindi. We have immediately contacted the State Government and I

(Prof. Madhu Dandavate)

may make it very clear that no matter whether one belongs to the Centre or to a State, if any authority says, "We will record the complaint if it is only in Hindi", it is highly objectionable, because in which language the passengers who suffer give the complaint is not important; their complaint is more important. Therefore, I am getting the matter enquired into. Though it is within the jurisdiction of the State, I have contacted the State Government authorities. I will get a full report and I can assure the House that even if from the State Government we get the information, if it is correct that the State police authority said like that, I give my unqualified apology to the House, because this is not tolerable. As far as the report is concerned, we have got the names of the seven passengers who were robbed and how much they have lost. All details have been collected. We will get all the enquiries made. The seven persons are Sarvasbri D. Satyanarayanan, S. Kondaswamy, A. S. Afsal, Marutichelam, Durga Prasad, M. S. Pillai and Shiv Shankar. Altogether they have lost property worth Rs. 5130. We will enquire into both the aspects, the language aspect as well as the robbery aspect. I can assure the House that if any authority refuses to accept the complaint in any language, it is highly wrong. Therefore, if anyone has said like that, whether he is under the jurisdiction of the Centre or of the State, as Railway Minister I give my unqualified apologies to the House for what has happened. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: Certain very vital issues arise out of the statement of the Minister. One is, a cognizable offence has been committed on the railways. The point is whether the machinery of the railways provide for anything to track down the cognizable offence and culprits concerned.

May I know whether the railway has got a Railway Protection Force whether the Railway Protection Force is also drawn from the State Government quota, whether they are under the control of the railways and are answerable to the railways, whether the railway is concerned with the crime committed on the railways. It is not a question of a complaint not being taken only.

MR. SPEAKER: You have mentioned it.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: It is a question of crime being committed and the public authority has the duty to collect the evidence.

MR. SPEAKER: He is looking into the matter.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: It is not what he said. The point is... (*Interruptions*). What I want from the hon. Minister is a report of the steps he has taken, not an apology alone, in view of the crime that has taken place on the railways.

MR. SPEAKER: He has said he will inquire into the matter and let us know; he has said that.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: That place is not far off from here. The point I am making is, not merely *The Hindu* report, he should report to the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has made a statement that he would inquire into the matter. You do not want an inquiry?

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: He has made a statement. I want to put a question to the Minister, so that the Minister may answer it today or tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: This shouting is going on. Is this the way

to carry on? (*Interruptions*) I appeal to you not to permit this matter to be taken in a cavalier manner. (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI RAGAVALU MOHANARANGAM:** Whenever we discuss a matter like this, the officer should be suspended. We ask the Railway Minister to suspend the officer.

**SHRI C. M. STEPHEN:** Let me complete what I wanted to say. The reaction of the Minister to the incident, according to me, is disappointing. Apology is all right, I am not talking about that. The material question he has not answered. He has not referred to... (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER:** Shall we not go to other items?

**SHRI C. M. STEPHEN:** I am not going to submit to this. This is not the way to treat me. If this is the way to treat me, you go on. (*Interruptions*)

Sir, the Minister made a statement. I am making a comment about it... (*Interruptions*) I appeal to my friends to bear with me. Kindly bear with me so that I can spell out our point of view.... (*Interruptions*) Sir, the Minister has not told us anything about the exercise of the railway's responsibility. I do not want to know what he is going to do about the State Government. But what has he done about the dacoity, what has he done about the burglary, for which his police is answerable?... (*Interruptions*) Has any action been taken or not? It is not merely a question of somebody going and complaining, and the complaint not being taken. This is not the only question about it... (*Interruptions*) Let him report to the House what action has been taken about the burglary that has taken place, about the attack that has taken place. I want an answer to those questions.

12.27 hrs.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

REVIEW AND ANNUAL REPORT OF TEA TRADING CORPORATION OF INDIA FOR 1976-77

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(1) Review by the Government on the working of the Tea Trading Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1976-77.

(2) Annual Report of the Tea Trading Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1976-77 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2621/78].

APPELLATE TRIBUNAL FOR FORFEITED PROPERTY (CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS) RULES, 1978

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Appellate Tribunal for Forfeited Property (Conditions of Service of Chairman and Members) Rules, 1978, (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 395(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th August, 1978, under sub-section (3) of section 26 of the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act, 1976. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2622/78].