

[Shri Jagjivan Ram]

was not an ordinary compartment. There were other berths. This was something like a coupe which was occupied by Shri Rama Rao, his daughter, a nurse and one journalist friend. There might have been passengers in the other berths, but it is not very easy for other passengers in those berths to see what is happening in this berth. It is just a coupe type of third class sleeper coach. (*Interruptions*).

Some Hon. Members rose—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. In view of what has been stated, I do not think any useful purpose will be served by interrupting the proceedings of the House and giving consent to this adjournment motion.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee** (Calcutta-Central): In regard to this matter of alarm chains being put out of commission on account of a very large number of cases where the practice was abused, I want to find out from the Ministry about one thing. There is a penal provision; if one pulls an alarm chain without any reason, one is liable to punishment. We have found from answers to questions in this House that a large number of people have been held up for having pulled alarm chains, but most of them have been let off without punishment. If the Railway Administration does not wish to enforce the penal provisions in regard to the abuse of the practice of pulling alarm chains, would honest, *bona fide* passengers, who might be in need of pulling the chain, be penalised only because the Railway Administration is not behaving properly? This is a matter which is coming up fairly repeatedly in this House, but somehow or other the Ministry does not give satisfaction.

**Mr. Speaker:** He wants to know if any effective steps have been taken to punish those who pull the alarm chains without reason.

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** The House is aware that we came before it for enhancement of the punishment for

alarm chain pulling. But as you know, the punishment is not in the hands of the railways. The case has to be tried by a Magistrate and the punishment is to be awarded by the Magistrate. It is not in the hands of the Railway Administration.

Again, another difficulty—we should not forget the conditions—comes that when a chain is pulled, the train is stopped and the guard goes to the compartment, nobody is prepared to say who has pulled the chain. We should not forget the conditions in which we are moving. I will request Shri H. N. Mukerjee to realise the condition, what it is. We cannot think in a vacuum; we have to think of the social conditions in which we are existing.

**Shri Anthony Pillai:** Surely there would be fingerprints on the alarm chain, and on the basis of that there could be identification.

**Mr. Speaker:** All that will be done. Any suggestions maybe passed on to the hon. Minister from time to time.

In view of the statement that has been made, no useful purpose will be served in interrupting the proceedings of the House. I am not giving my consent.

#### ALLEGED MISHAP AT RUDRASAGAR OIL-WELL

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Braj Raj Singh and a few others have tabled an adjournment motion regarding the following matter:

"The cement wall of the Oil well at Rudrasagar having caved in, abandoning of the exploration of oil in that field resulting in an aggregate loss of Rs. 30 lakhs. This has occurred due to the negligence in erecting the said cement wall. The mishap has affected the morale of the people engaged in oil exploration in that region and it may also affect the original time scheduled in the region."

This is what we find in the morning newspapers in broad headlines.

**Shri Braj Raj Singh:** Could I make a submission?

**Mr. Speaker:** Has he got anything to say apart from what he read in the newspapers?

**Shri Braj Raj Singh:** We were very glad when the hon. Minister announced the finding of oil in this well as a new year gift. Now it transpires from the news which we have read that due to the negligence of the people there, the Oil and Natural Gas Commission people, the well has caved in, and we have incurred a loss of more than Rs. 30 lakhs; also, the morale of the people who are engaged in that exploration work has broken down.

**Mr. Speaker:** I agree. The hon. Member is only stating once again all that has been put down in the adjournment motion. I read out every item that he is saying. If in addition he has got any information, apart from what we find in the newspapers, I wanted him to say.

The hon. Minister.

**The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** This paper which claims to be a very responsible one, and I am told has a very highly organised unit of services, must have its own sources of information. When I read this news in the morning paper, I was myself surprised. Since then I have been trying to contact the various places from which I can get this information, more especially because front page and biggest types create an impression on the minds of men, and also of responsible men. That such a thing could perhaps happen. Till 15 minutes back, I was not able to get any authentic information. From the headquarters I got the news that there is no such news available to them. Then I tried to contact Calcutta. From there also I learnt that nothing like

that could happen. Then I contacted Sibsagar. Just now, while I was sitting here, I got one news, which I would like to read:

"With great difficulty, a talk on telephone with Dr. Chandra at Sibsagar could be had. All that we could hear is that the Press report is absolutely baseless, and spudding of second well in Rudrasagar area will most probably commence on 17th March, 1961."

It is possible that in spite of this news, something might have happened as a result of earthquake or some major mistakes committed by our people. So, I will request you to wait till tomorrow, before I make an authoritative statement.

**Mr. Speaker:** Very well. This will stand over. I will treat this as a Calling Attention Notice, and the hon. Minister will make a statement tomorrow. That will be better. Anyhow, he is not sure as to whether the information is absolutely, fully unfounded.

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** I want to be doubly sure, that is all.

**Shri Braj Raj Singh:** We shall all be happy if it is not true.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister will also try to find out from the newspaper wherefrom they got the news, and who is the special correspondent.

**Shri K. D. Malaviya:** I know all that. I have my own views about these matters, but I want to be factual.

12.25 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**COMPLAINTS FROM INDIAN CITIZENS IN ADDIS ABABA**

**Shri A. M. Tariq (Jammu and Kashmir):** Under Rule 107, I beg to