

12.20 HRS.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT AT SON NAGAR ON EASTERN RAILWAY
THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
 (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : At about 23.59 hours....(Interruption)

श्री रवि राय (पुरी) : इनको तो इस्तीफा देना चाहिए। आप मांगिए इन से इतने आदमी मर रहे हैं दुर्घटनाओं से।....**व्यवधान**

SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY (Cuddalore) : Before allowing the Railway Minister to make the statement, kindly permit each party to record its protest.

MR. SPEAKER : That cannot be. There cannot be another accident here.

श्री शिवचंद्र झा (मधुबनी) : केवल ब्यान से काम नहीं चलेगा। हम लोगों का सवाल पूछने का मौका दीजिए।

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order.

SHRI NAMBIAR (Tiruchirapalli) : Our Minister is not responsible; the Railway Board is responsible. They are executing policy....(Interruption).

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order.

SHRI NAMBIAR : The Railway Board must go. The sooner they resign, the better it will be for the country.

MR. SPEAKER : You will not sit down until you have had your say. The Speaker may say anything or anybody may say anything, you must have your complete say and then only you will sit down....(Interruption). Order, order.

SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY : You are calling us to order. The railway administration must be called to order; it should be set right....(Interruption).

MR. SPEAKER : When the Speaker is on his legs, you should not speak. You were observing it. I do not know why you are giving up such a good habit.

We have had this accident and it is not the first one. We have had a number of accidents....(Interruption). Order, order.

SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY : You have to put an end to these accidents... (Interruption).

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order. Please, I want some order.

Unfortunately there are accidents and people are dead. It is a serious matter. I

entirely agree. Everyone of us is concerned about it. A statement is being made. After the statement is made, whether the Minister should resign or who should resign and all that....(Interruption).

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Bombay South) : Railway Board....(Interruption).

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order.

SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY : The Board must be reconstituted....(Interruption).

MR. SPEAKER : Indiscipline is becoming a disease, do whatever you like....(Interruption).

Nothing will be taken down. Nothing will appear in the press.

SHRI GUNANAND THAKUR (Saharsa) : *^o

MR. SPEAKER : Will you please sit down or go out. I want to know....(Interruption).

SHRI GUNANAND THAKUR : **

MR. SPEAKER : I can understand the seriousness but everyone will have to be a little calm. After the statement is made, we shall, if necessary, take an opportunity of discussing it some day....(Interruption). Mr. Basu, you are again beginning. You start the whole trouble. That is the unfortunate position, You don't allow the Speaker to say a few words, let alone the Minister or even the Prime Minister. Even the Speaker is not in a position to say a few words. Why don't you hear me? (Interruption) It is impossible now. Once in a way, I can stand.

My point is this. After the statement is made, you can take any decision you like. I am not objecting to the House taking a decision. I am not standing in their way. Shouting alone cannot do. One shouted that the Minister must resign; another shouted that the Board must resign and somebody else shouted something which I did not hear. Mr. Nambiar also shouted something. Everytime he shouts, I don't hear at all. I do not know how these things can be helped. You can have a regular discussion. I am prepared for it. It is not as though serious things should go unchallenged. If not Mr. Poonacha, somebody else must be held responsible. I

**Not recorded.

entirely agree with you in having a discussion. You have the discussion in a clam way. It is the privilege of the House to decide who should resign and all that.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Why don't you pull them up? (*Interruption*).

MR. SPEAKER : Under no Rules, the Speaker can ask anybody to go or come in. Let us hear the Minister. Later on, you can have the discussion in a regular way. You can make a motion of whatever type under the Rules. Let us discuss it in a calm way. The hon. Minister,

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : At about 23-59 hours on 15-11-1968 while No. 2 Dehri-On-Sone Gomoh passenger was leaving Son Nagar station situated on the Gaya-Mughal Sarai section of the Grand Chord on the Eastern Railway an Up electric goods train side-collided with it. As a result the fourth coach from the engine of the passenger train was badly damaged and capsized, 5th and 6th coaches also capsized and the 7th coach derailed. The electric engine of the goods train along with two wagons went down the embankment and next 11 wagons derailed and capsized. I regret to say that 9 persons were killed and fifty-two injured, of whom five seriously, as a result of the accident.

The Assistant Operating Superintendent, Dehri-On-Sone and the Assistant Engineer attended the site of the accident immediately with two railway doctors. The Accident Relief Train from Son Nagar reached the site of the accident at 01.00 hours with two railway doctors. The medical van from Gaya accompanied by one railway doctor and three other doctors reached the site of the accident at 03.50 hours. The medical van from Mughal Sarai accompanied by the Divisional Medical Officer Mughal Sarai reached the site of the accident at 04.35 hours. The Divisional Superintendent, Danapur accompanied by Divisional Officers reached the site of the accident at 07.05 hours. Senior Deputy General Manager of the Eastern Railway, the Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Commercial Superintendent also attended the site of the accident.

The Minister of State for Railways accompanied by the Member (Engineering) and the Director (Safety) Railway Board left for the site of the accident by air. They reached at 21.50 hours yesterday and visited the injured in the hospitals at Dehri-On-Sone and Son Nagar.

The Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety is holding inquiry into the accident beginning on 20-11-68 at Son Nagar.

Ex-gratia payment to the next of kin of dead and to those injured has been arranged.

Some Hon. Members *rose*—

MR. SPEAKER : No discussion now. It will lead us nowhere.

श्री रवि राय : आप आगे के लिये इसको व्यवस्था कर दीजिए ।

MR. SPEAKER : Yes. You give it in writing. I will look into it. You can have a small discussion, if you like, and the Minister may be able to throw some light. Perhaps some useful suggestions can be made. It will be useful then. I will consider it. Shri Kunte to make a personal explanation.

SHRI SRINIBAS MISRA (Cuttack) : Before Mr. Kunte begins, the Railway Minister should lay a diary of accidents on the Table of the House.

12.30 Hrs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION BY MEMBER (SHRI DATTATRAYA KUNTE).

SHRI DATTATRAYA KUNTE (Kolaba) : With your permission, I would make a brief statement....

SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai) : On a point of order. How can Mr. Kunte make a statement? On that day the allegations made by certain people were brought to the notice of the Minister and one of the allegations was very nice—Mr. Kunte went to Srinagar to enjoy the three princesses' show organized by *Femina*. What had Mr. Kunte to do with that gorgeous show? Whatever that might be, the Minister said that the allegations must be inquired into and the allegations are being inquired into. At this point, if the hon. Member is given an opportunity to make a statement justifying