

MR. SPEAKER: I would request Shri Ramavtar Shastri to sit down.

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI : **

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member may kindly sit down.... He may shout as much as he likes. Nothing is being recorded.... Will he kindly sit down now? Nothing is being recorded. If in spite of my asking him to sit down he insists that he should speak, let him speak, but nothing is being taken down.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE THIRTY-EIGHTH REPORT

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH (Nandyal): I beg to present the Thirty-eighth Report of the Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Department of Agriculture)—Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Ernakulam.

12.22½ hrs.

STATEMENT ON REORGANISATION OF HINDUSTAN STEEL LIMITED

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. CHANNA REDDY) rose—

MR. SPEAKER: He may lay it on the Table of the House.

DR. CHANNA REDDY: I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Statement on the reorganisation of Hindustan Steel Limited. [Placed in Library. See No LT-517/68].

12.23 hrs.

STATEMENT ON RAILWAY ACCIDENT AT YALVIGI STATION

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Railway Minister.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): With profound regret, I have to inform the House that.... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI (Patna) : **

MR. SPEAKER: I can understand the hon. Member standing and shouting. But I find that there is an hon. Member who is sitting, and then shouting; that is much more indecent. I do not want to hear any of them. Now, the hon. Railway Minister.

SHRI K. N. TIWARY (Bettiah): Shri Ramavtar Shastri should be named and sent out of the House.

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: Sir, with profound regret I have to inform the House that at about 22.35 hours last night train No. 208 Down Poona-Bangalore Deccan Express entered the platform line of Yalvigi station, on the Harihar-Hubli metre gauge section of the Mysore Division of Southern Railway, and collided head-on with train No. 215 Up Birur-Hubli passenger which had been received on that line earlier at 21.55 hours.

As a result the engines of both the trains got entangled and the front coaches next to the engines of both the trains got smashed. According to latest report available 36 persons were killed and 34 injured, of whom 11 persons are suspected to have sustained serious injuries. One injured person succumbed to his injuries bringing the total number of dead persons to 37.

Immediately on receipt of information medical van accompanied by Assistant Medical Officer was rushed from Harihar. Medical Relief Special accompanied by Divisional Medical Officer and Divisional Operating Superintendent was also despatched from Arsikere at 23.25 hours. The Divisional Superintendent and Divisional Engineer, Mysore also left for the site by Medical Relief Special from Bangalore. The Divisional Superintendent, Hubli alongwith the Divisional Medical Officer and Divisional Operating Superintendent left Hubli by Medical Relief Special at 23.20 hours and reached the site at 00.55 hours. In the meantime 3 doctors who were travelling by train No. 208 Down rendered first aid to the injured.

The General Manager, Southern Railway alongwith the Heads of

Departments has flown to the site. The Minister of State for Railways accompanied by the Member Mechanical Railway Board and Director (Safety & Coaching) has also flown from Delhi to the site of the accident.

Ex-gratia payment is being arranged to the injured and to the next of kin of the dead.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS *rose*—

श्री रवि राय (पुरी) : यह क्या हो रहा है ? किस तरह से रेलवे मन्त्रालय चल रहा है ? हर रोज लोग मर रहे हैं ।

SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam): I appeal to you, Sir to express the concern and sorrow of the whole House at this terrible tragedy and to send our condolences to the bereaved families. Let all the railway staff go into mourning and wear black badges for one day in order to show their concern over the manner in which it has been mis-managed.

MR. SPEAKER : All of us are sorry about it. I know every member is very much distressed about it because 37 people have died.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : The minister should resign.

श्री रवि राय : मन्त्री जी को इस्तीफा देना चाहिये । आप इस्तीफा दिलाएँ । हर रोज लोग मर रहे हैं ।

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot make him resign. It is not in my hands. I cannot dictate to him that he should resign now. There are methods of making him resign. The railway budget is coming up immediately now. It is open to all of you, whoever wants, to make the suggestion that he should resign. In another 15 minutes, it is coming up. I hope there is nothing wrong in continuing him for 15 minutes. After that, when the railway budget comes, you can throw it out and make him resign. I have no objection absolutely to that. Though he is a good friend of mine, I am not going to make him sit there compulsorily.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK (South Delhi) : Such tragic accidents are occurring again and again.

MR. SPEAKER: There may be differences about the parties, but so far as the dead are concerned, there are absolutely no two opinions between this side of the House and that side. We are all shocked that this has happened. We are taking up the railway budget immediately and we can discuss about it. You can vote down the Government.

श्री रवि राय : कम से कम जुडिशल इन्क्वायरी तो करवा लें ।

SHRI NAMBIAR (Tiruchirappalli): A judicial enquiry is absolutely necessary.

MR. SPEAKER: You can demand that also. But now I am not allowing anybody. It applies to Mr. Imam, Mr. Shivappa and everybody. When the budget is taken up after 15 minutes, you can demand a judicial enquiry or dismissal of the minister or anything. At that time, I will permit Mr. Imam, Mr. Shivappa and others.

12.30 hrs.

MOTIONS RE: EXTENSION OF TERM OF OFFICE OF MEMBERS OF ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH): I beg to move :

"That this House do suspend sub-rule (2) of Rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in its application to the motion for extension of the term of office of the present members of the Committee on Estimates."

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंबेर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय मुझे सख्त ऐतराज है कि बिना कोई कारण बतलाये मंत्री महोदय ने एक वाक्य में इस तरह से प्रस्ताव रख दिया ।