

SHRI M. L. SONDHI (New Delhi) : The whole history of our freedom movement is an indictment of Section 144.

MR. SPEAKER : If the members have been arrested, they must inform me.

Till now I have no information.

12.41 HRS.

STATEMENT ON FIRE ACCIDENT TO PASSENGER TRAIN BETWEEN MARI-PAT AND DADRI STATIONS ON 7-8-1968.

श्री कंचर लाल गुप्त (दिल्ली सदर) : आन ए पायंट आफ आर्डर। जिस विषय पर मंत्री महोदय वक्तव्य देने जा रहे हैं, उसी विषय पर हम में से कई सदस्यों ने कॉलिंग एटेंशन नोटिस दिये हैं। इसलिए कॉलिंग एटेंशन ले कर मंत्री महोदय को वक्तव्य देने के लिए कहा चाहिए।

MR. SPEAKER : That is no point of order. Even if I admit a Calling Attention, it will come up only tomorrow. But this is a serious matter. Every time there is an accident, the Minister has been making a statement. Do you want him to wait for some Calling Attention or Short Notice Questions ?

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री (हापुड़) अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप की अपनी व्यवस्था है कि मंत्री की ओर से वक्तव्य देने की सूचना और कॉलिंग एटेंशन नोटिस में से जो भी पहले आये, उस को सदन में लिया जायेगा।

MR. SPEAKER : Even if the calling Attention had come two days earlier, I would give the Minister a chance because it is a serious matter. The people should know immediately.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (Shri C. M. POONACHA : Sir, on 7-8-1968, the third coach from the engine of train No. 2 FTD Delhi-Tundla-Farukhabad Passenger which left Maripat station at 14.57 hrs, was noticed to have caught fire at about 15.00 hrs. between Maripat and Dadri stations on the Ghaziabad-Tundla section of the Northern Railway near the UP Outer signal of Maripat station.

As a result of the fire, ten persons died and 51 persons received burns, 28 having sustained simple burns and 23 more serious burns. 9 persons were taken to Ghaziabad

hospital and 42 brought to Delhi, 10 of whom were admitted in the Railway Hospital and 32 in Safdarjung hospital. One person admitted in the Ghaziabad hospital, two in the Railway hospital and 10 in the Safdarjung hospital at Delhi have been discharged. All possible medical attention is being provided for those still in the hospitals.

The alarm chain apparatus of the affected coach was in working order. The coach had been given periodical overhaul as recently as in July 1968. The engine of the train was fitted with a Spark Arrestor in working order. The battery boxes of the affected coach were found covered and the kent couplers and junction boxes properly secured.

From the burnt compartment of the coach two cans were recovered in which petrol or other high speed oil for automobiles is usually carried. The District Magistrate, Bulandshahr, has ordered a Magisterial Inquiry under the Indian Petroleum Act. The Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety is holding a statutory inquiry into the accident, commencing on 10-8-1968 at Ghaziabad. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

12.42 HRS.

RE : CALLING ATTENTION NOTES

MR. SPEAKER : I would like to say that the Calling Attention came today, but normally wherever there is a serious accident or loss of life, the Minister automatically makes a Statement. Yesterday was a holiday, and I could not have admitted the Calling Attention.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA (Delhi Sadar) : We gave the Calling Attention Notice on Saturday.

MR. SPEAKER : I would have admitted it tomorrow, but I thought the statement must be made immediately. If he did not make it, I would have admitted it tomorrow. Anyway, it is a serious accident and unfortunately so many lives have been lost. We are all sorry and very unhappy that this unfortunate accident has occurred.

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH MAHIDA (Anand) : A Calling Attention has been given on Gujarat also. So many people have died and communications have been disrupted.