

Rs. 18.6 lakhs, with an anticipated return of 5 per cent. The present-day cost is likely to be 12 to 15 times as much, and the Project, therefore, will be unremunerative.

(c) No such proposal is included in the Railways' programme of construction for new lines for the Third Five Year Plan.

12 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

**Mr. Speaker:** I think, hon. Members must have read this morning the news about the sad demise of the Maharaja of Sikkim. Of course, we deeply mourn the loss of a friend of ours. He was a benevolent ruler in whose incumbency the State made marked progress. I am sure, the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family and to the Government and the people of Sikkim. I will request hon. Members to stand in silence for a minute.

*The Members then stood in silence for a short while.*

12.01 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

EXPLOSION IN A RAILWAY WAGON AT AJNI NEAR NAGPUR

**Mr. Speaker:** I have received notices from many hon. Members. Shri Mani Ram Bagri is the first signatory. He may read it.

**श्री बागड़ी (हिसार) :** मैं रेलवे मंत्री का ध्यान निम्न अविलम्बनीय लोक महत्व के विषय की ओर आकर्षित करता हूँ और चाहता हूँ कि वह इस सम्बन्ध में अपना वक्तव्य दें :

“नागपुर में मालगाड़ी के डब्बे में हुआ विस्फोट जिसके फल स्वरूप

३२ व्यक्ति घायल हुए और मकानों व रेल के कारखानों को नुकसान”

**The Minister of Railways (Shri Dasappa):** May I crave your indulgence to make my statement in English?

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes.

**Shri Dasappa:** On 2-12-1963 at 10.05 hours, a covered wagon CR No. 51176 repacked at Ajni transhipment shed for Itarsi Junction containing detonators, potassium chlorate and military stores exploded while standing in one of the yard lines in Ajni Marshalling Yard.

2. This wagon was repacked in the Ajni transhipment shed on 29-11-1963. It was a van made up with dangerous goods and sealed for Itarsi with 63 cases, details of which are given below:

43 cases of detonators booked from Itwari (Nagpur).

(41 to Tanakpur, N.E. Rly, 1 to Solon, 1 to Joginder Nagar).

20 cases of potassium chlorate from Salt Cotours to Kanpur.

1 case of military stores from Salt Cotours to Chandigarh.

3. The explosion of the wagon caused damage to 20 other wagons including heavy damage to 3 wagons containing full pressed sotton, rolled paper and bitumen. There was also some damage to track, telephone and telegraph wires, railway quarters and staff quarters of the Government Medical College nearby. The damage to property in the Railway premises is estimated to be approximately Rs. 1.60 lakhs.

4. Thirty-two persons received minor injuries. Of these, twenty-eight were Railway employees, two members of Railway employees' families and two outsiders. No one was seriously injured.

5. Twenty-four persons were given first aid and discharged. Remaining eight of the injured persons have been admitted in the hospital and they are progressing satisfactorily and are expected to be discharged in a day or two.

6. On receipt of the information, a Member of the Railway Board left by Night Air Mail Service for Nagpur to study the matter on the spot.

7. The cause of the explosion is under investigation. A Senior Scale Officers' Enquiry has been ordered and the Committee will be assisted by the Chief Inspector of Explosives and a representative of the State Police.

**श्री बागड़ी :** इसका तरजुमा हिन्दी में करना दिया जाये ।

**Shri Dassapa:** I will place it on the Table. It is not available just now.

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** नोटिस बहुत शार्ट था, उम्मी बकन मैं ने भेजा और कहा कि आज ही इस बारे में बयान दिया जाये । इस बारे में वह तरजुमा नहीं रख सके । जैसा कि मैं ने कहा था बजट सेशन से यह माता इन्विजाम हो सकेगा । मुझे यह भी मालूम है कि बागड़ी जी कुछ कुछ अंग्रेजी समझ सकते हैं ।

**श्री बागड़ी :** यह मेरे साथ ज्यादानी है । पर अध्यक्ष महोदय का हुकम तो मानना ही पड़ेगा ।

मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से यह बात जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब इस किस्म की चीजों रेल द्वारा भेजी जाती हैं जिन में आग्नि ज्यादा लगती हो जैसे वाकूद बगैरह, तो इस के अद्विनियत के लिए कोई कायदे कानून हैं और अगर हैं तो क्या उन को इस मामले में काम में लाया गया या नहीं ?

**Mr. Speaker:** The House would like to know whether there are any rules and regulations with regard to the loading of such explosive material and

whether those rules and regulations were in the present case also observed or not.

**Shri Dasappa:** There are fairly specific rules with regard to the loading of explosive material. I would not like to pre-judge the results of the investigation. On the face of it, it looks to us that there has been some deviation from those rules.

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** कायदे कानून तो बने हुए हैं लेकिन उन की पाबन्दी की गयी भी या नहीं इस का पता तो तहकीकात के बाद ही लगेगा यह उनका कहना है । लेकिन उन को शक है कि शायद उस में कुछ फर्क रहा हो ।

**श्री यशपाल सिंह (कैराना) :** एक्सप्लोसिव मैटीरियल के डब्बों को खड़ा करने के लिए अलग यार्ड होता है । क्या उन लोगों से जाब तलब किया गया जिन्होंने इस डब्बे को गलत जगह खड़ा किया ?

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** तहकीकात के बाद मालूम होगा कि उन से गलती हुई या नहीं ।

**Shri Dasappa:** These are just the things under investigation.

**Shri Warior (Trichur):** May I know how long these bogies were detained in Ajni and why they were detained for so long there without despatching them immediately because there was explosive material and military stores loaded in them?

**Shri Dasappa:** The date is given. It was loaded on 29th November, 1963 and this occurred yesterday.

**श्री सरजू पाण्डेय (मरसा) :** मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस ऐक्सीडेंट में कितने रुपये का नुकसान हुआ है ?

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** वह तो कह दिया ।

**Shri Jashvant Mehta (Bhavnagar):** There were series of accidents in the last two years. May I know what



that this accident took place. The wagon was stationary at the time of the occurrence.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** My question has not been understood, I think, by the hon. Minister. When a wagon loaded with explosives is attached to the goods train, are those people alerted about it?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister says that in this particular case there was no question of alerting anybody, as it was in the yard where the wagon was standing that the accident took place.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** Even if it were in the yard, the station master and all those persons concerned should have been alerted. If they are not alerted, how can you stop this kind of accident?

**Mr. Speaker:** Of course, that would have been done.

श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा (कोटा) :  
श्रीमान्, मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या यह सच है कि जिन गार्ड के ग्रन्ट ये बैगन खड़े हुए थे उस गार्ड पर उस टाइम में पहरा किमी अहिन्दू का था अर्थात् किमी मुसलमान का पहरा था ?

**Mr. Speaker:** That will be known after the inquiry. It cannot be said now. He was asking who was the guard at that time.

**Shri Dasappa:** So far as our information goes, there was no particular person on guard at the yard.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee** (Calcutta Central): In pursuance of what Shri Sharma had asked, I want to find out, if I may, that before this particular wagon.....

**Mr. Speaker:** I cannot allow him a question. That would be a departure from the rules. I am sorry.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Could I make a submission?

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** When apropos of a calling-attention matter, certain things come before the House, they are I presume in possession of the House; that is to say, if in pursuance of certain answers given to a calling attention matter, a certain matter comes up there, which the House desires to take notice of, is there an obligation that the House should be precluded from exercising that desire? I wish to say so because on many occasions this has happened. All that I do want to say is this. You have been good enough to permit a large number of questions whenever these calling attention matters crop up; and it is a good habit that some Members of this House be clubbed together so that they can get an opportunity to put questions. But it has often happened that after a calling attention matter is raised, a certain question comes up of which the House as a whole is entitled to take notice. And sometimes I have noticed my hon. friend, Prof. Ranga, also drawing your attention to this aspect of the matter.

I do not wish to hear my voice in this House—I have heard it often enough. So it is not because of wishing to obstruct the proceedings that I am saying these things. I do not wish to ask the question which you have disallowed, but I do wish you to give some attention to this aspect of the matter.

**Shri Ranga** (Chittoor): Before you give your ruling, may I say that I entirely agree with what Prof. Mukerjee has said just now? The other day I also drew your attention to it and said that I was not quite in agreement with the line that you had followed till now.

May I make one small suggestion? In the light of all these questions and answers, would it not be at least useful to the House if you make one small concession, that either the leaders of the Groups....

**Some Hon. Members:** No, no.

**Shri Ranga:** ...or anyone else, who may be authorised by the leaders of the Groups, may be permitted to put a final question in order to clinch the matter? Otherwise, what happens? I know your usual answer—that the House has got many other opportunities of pursuing the matter. But that will take more time.

**Mr. Speaker:** I will not give that answer.

**Shri Ranga:** I am glad you are not going to give it now.

Therefore, it may be easier for us if you give us this much concession.

**Mr. Speaker:** This question was raised earlier also and I had replied to it. I explained then that in our rules it is laid down that after a calling attention notice has been answered, there would be no debate; and questions were also not allowed earlier. But I introduce it, relaxing the rule; I said I would allow those who sign it to put one question each. Now if it is objected to, I am giving this option to the House: that the first signatory would put the questions. Then I would not have to look and see who is the other signatory. I will make it open to the House, and after six or seven questions have been put, I will close it. The House can have one of these two options, anything that the House likes.

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara):** Every signatory must have the right to put the question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Then the present procedure would continue. Thank you so much.

**Shri U. M. Trivedi (Mandsaur):** A very pertinent point was raised by Prof. Mukerjee. Suppose some matter which affects the whole House as such arises from the answer given by the Minister or from the question put by a Member, would it not be proper to allow such a point to be raised in the House to have the clarification then and there instead of waiting for a further opportunity?

**Mr. Speaker:** I said I had no objection, but if I open it out to others also once, that would be a precedent, and I will be pressed again to follow that precedent in every calling attention notice. Therefore, I request hon. Members to consider that aspect.

**Shri Ranga:** Leaders need not give notice of these calling attentions, but give an opportunity to the backbenchers. I was only asking you to allow the leader if he thought it necessary to raise a particular point.

**Shri Bagri rose—**

**Mr. Speaker:** He will sit down when I am standing.

**श्री बागड़ी :** यह जो सजेस्टियन नेता लोग कर रहे हैं, गैर क्वाल में यह सिर्फ इशारा है कि वे बिना काम किए हुए ही समय ले लें और साधारण सदस्यों का समय न मिले। इस समय आप ने सदस्यों को जो खुला काम दे रखा है उस में हर एक सदस्य काम कर के समय ले सकता है। अगर यह सजेस्टियन मान लिया गया तो तब तब कीडर ही समय ले लिया करेंगे।

**Mr. Speaker:** For me there cannot be any discrimination between them. Of course, I have every regard for the leaders, and I do give them every consideration, but I cannot discriminate against the backbenchers.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I submit very respectfully that leaders of groups do have their place, proper place, respected place, honoured place, in this House, and I have no objection to the place that they have, but I submit that these leaders should not have a place even in those things in which they do not take any interest. I submit respectfully that we employ people to type these questions....

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it needed after what I have said?

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** We type those questions, we have messengers to carry those questions to the Notice Office,

and we have a right first of all to put supplementaries. If it is thrown open to the House, these leaders will gobble up all those questions.

12.23 hrs.

REPORTED RESIGNATION FROM  
ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. Incidentally, because Prof. Sharma has spoken, I might refer to another subject that he raised some days ago.

Prof. Sharma stood up and said he had a point of order, that he had resigned from the membership of the Estimates Committee but still notices were being sent to him. I disallowed that point of order because it was no point of order at all, but I looked into the papers and made enquiries as to what that matter was which agitated Prof. Sharma, because I have great regard for him, and as a scholar I expect him to be very clear in the assertions that he makes. I have come to the conclusion, and I have found from the enquiries, that there is no resignation from Prof. Sharma. Let us hear Prof. Sharma.

**Shri A. C. Guha (Barasat):** May I make a submission?

**Mr. Speaker:** He will kindly sit down. Let me hear Prof. Sharma.

**Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur):** I thought I was not equal to the work of the Estimates Committee.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am not asking that. The question is whether he sent his resignation.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** I sent my resignation to the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs.

**Mr. Speaker:** He sent his resignation to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and raises a point of order asking the Speaker to give a ruling.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** Do we not ask you to give your ruling on the points of order raised here about the Ministers?

**Mr. Speaker:** I will read the resignation that he has sent to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs: "Please permit me to resign my membership"... (Interruptions).

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** Mr. Speaker, I know English slightly. In English there are two ways of stating a thing—there is a blunt way and there is a polite way. I chose the polite way. If somebody does not understand the polite way, what can I do?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. It is a reflection cast on the Chair. He is asking the permission of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs as a Member of the Congress Party. I am not concerned with it at all. He knows very well that resignation can be sent to the Speaker and not to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. What has the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to do with that? He ought not to have raised a point of order.

12.26 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORTS UNDER COMPANIES  
ACT 1956

**The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur):** I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports under subsection (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (i) Annual Report of the Mogul Line Limited, Bombay, for the year ended the 31st December, 1962, along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1989/63].
- (ii) Annual Report of the Shipping Corporation of India Limited, Bombay, for the year 1962-63, along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of