

the work departmentally resulting in heavy losses on account of demurrage, damage due to rains and additional freight on re-booking of Railway wagons to Nagpur on the 21st June, 1968;

(b) if so, the total loss incurred under each head; and

(c) the steps taken to avoid such loss in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AND AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) It is a fact that consequent on the failure of the handling/transport contractor at Delhi, fresh tenders were invited by the Food Corporation on the 11th June, 1968. None of the tenders for Naraina Depot was however accepted as the tendered rates were very high. The work at this Depot was therefore taken up by the Food Corporation departmentally from the 28th June, 1968 at the risk and cost of the defaulting contractor. This arrangement did not, however, result in heavy losses on account of demurrage or damage due to rains. The wagons were re-booked to Nagpur when the defaulting contractor was still operating and the work had not been departmentalised.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

श्री ओंकार लाल बेरवा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, ठेकेदार का काम असफल रहा, लेकिन जो दूसरे टेण्डर कराये गये, वे कितने एबब थे तथा जिस ठेकेदार का टेण्डर असफल रहा वह कितने परसेन्ट एबब था तथा डमेज और डेमेरेज पर कितना कितना नुकसान हुआ ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: The tenders were considered to be high on the ground that they were much higher as compared with the prevailing rates and that was why F.C.I. could not accept them. As far as demurrage is concerned, I have

got the figures with me. The total demurrage exceeds Rs. 1 lakh, but the liability is that of the contractor. When it was departmentalised, the demurrage only came to about Rs. 233.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

HOLD-UP OF 228 DOWN CHHITAUNI-GORAKHPUR-PASSENGER TRAIN

SNQ. 15 SHRI VISHWA NATH PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the police resorted to firing injuring many persons at Dhagda village in Gorakhpur District on the 15th August, 1968 when a mob held up 228 Down Chhitauni-Gorakhpur passenger train;

(b) if so, the causes thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH): (a) The Honourable Member is perhaps referring to an incident on the 15th August 1968 near village Khajwa between Pipraich and Unaula Railway Stations, when train No. 225 UP Gorakhpur-Chitauni passenger train was held up at about 10-30 hours by a mob which became violent and threw stones injuring railway staff, police and Railway Protection Force personnel. Consequently, the Police had to open fire resulting in injury to three persons.

(b) The train was overcrowded by students and others, who were mostly without tickets and were travelling on foot board and roof of carriages. The police assisted by the Railway Protection Force posted at Pipraich Station detained passengers from foot board and roof tops. The train was repeatedly stopped by pulling alarm chain. The police tried to clear the mob which become violent.

(c) A case has been registered by the local police on Crime No. 68 under sections 307/323/336/427 IPC and 126/127/128/129 Indian Railways Act on 15-8-1968. 130 persons are reported to have been arrested so far. The case is still under police investigation.

श्री विश्वनाथ पाण्डेय : जैसा कि मंत्री महोदय ने बताया स्वतन्त्रता दिवस पर यह दुर्घटना हुई। प्रत्येक स्वतन्त्रता दिवस पर ऐसा होता है कि डिब्बों में अधिक यात्रि बैठते हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस चीज को जानते हुए क्या रेलवे अधिकारियों ने ऐसा प्रबन्ध नहीं किया था कि जहाँ से गाड़ी चले, वही से ठीक भीड़ का नेतृत्व किया जाय, जिससे आगे चल कर काफ़ी भीड़ न रहे और गोली चलाने का काण्ड न हो ?

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH : Normally, every effort is being made to check the overcrowding and particularly the travel on the roofs of carriages and also on the footboards. But on the 15th August, 1968, when the train arrived at a particular station, the train was overcrowded, and the people were travelling on the roof and also on the footboard. In order to avoid any unprecedented accident, the police on the station detained the passengers from the roof and allowed the train to move. Immediately after that, the train was made to halt by alarm-chain pulling and all the passengers that were detained at the station rushed on again to get up on the roof of the train which was stopped. After that again a similar thing happened and alarm-chain was pulled and the other passengers who were waiting there all came up and asked the driver and the guard not to move the train. When the police and the railway staff wanted to persuade the people, the mob became violent and in that process, the police had no alternative and in self-defence they had to resort to firing and in that incident three persons received injuries.

श्री विश्वनाथ पाण्डेय : जिन लोगों को चोट लगी है, उन में कितने ग्रामीण लोग थे और कितने विद्यार्थी थे ?

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH : Most of the people who were travelling were ticketless. Three persons were injured. I do not know whether they were ticketless passengers or not.

श्री मोलूह प्रसाद : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आज भी शिक्षण संस्थाओं का इतना दोषपूर्ण रवैया है कि अधिकतर विद्यार्थियों में यह भावना है कि 15 अगस्त के दिन रेलें फ्री चलती हैं, इस लिये कभी गोरखपुर से पटना और कभी पटना से उत्तर प्रदेश के लिये विद्यार्थी बिना टिकट के यात्रा करते हैं। क्या मंत्री महोदय शिक्षण संस्थाओं को आदेश देंगे कि वे विद्यार्थियों में सही किस्म की भावना पैदा करें। दूसरे जो गोली चली है वह सिविल पुलिस की तरफ से चली है या रेलवे पुलिस की तरफ से चली है। उस में सोहनी करनेवाले खेतीहर मजदूर कितने घायल हुए तथा कितने विद्यार्थी घायल हुए? उस में बहुत से खेतीहर मजदूर जो सोहनी कर रहे थे, घायल हुए हैं।

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH : I am not aware of any such instructions.

SHRI S. KUNDU : This incident involves two matters: one travelling without tickets and another, law and order. There has been an allegation of police firing and lathi charge, and sometimes brutal lathi charge. As for the question of law and order, police excesses have been alleged. Is the hon. Minister going to institute a judicial inquiry into these things? I am not going into the question of the offence of people travelling without tickets. The ordinary law will take its course in their case. But he is going to institute a judicial inquiry into the police firing during which 130 persons have been arrested?

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH: A magisterial inquiry has already been instituted.

SHRI S. KUNDU: It is such a ghastly brutal action. Will a judicial inquiry be instituted?

MR. SPEAKER: He has said it is a magisterial inquiry; that means, no judicial inquiry.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : 1942 के आन्दोलन के बाद से प्रायः हर जगह यह कायदा सा हो गया है कि विद्यार्थी 15 अगस्त के दिन स्वतन्त्रता दिवस मनाने के लिये रेलगाड़ियों में जाते हैं। क्या सरकार 15 अगस्त को छात्रों को इस प्रकार की सुविधा देने के लिये सोच रही है ताकि इस तरह की घटनायें न हों, टिकट की जांच पड़ताल न हो और वे स्वतन्त्रता दिवस का काम ठीक से मना सकें ?

श्री हुकूम चन्द कछबाय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, बिना टिकट की जो मनावृत्ति है वह आम लोगों में इस प्रकार से छाई हुई है कि 18 अगस्त का जो त्योहार है, वह राष्ट्रीय त्योहार है, हमें इस रोज आजादी मिली है, इस लिये सब बातें फी होनी चाहियें—विद्यार्थियों में ऐसी धारणा बन गई है। हर वर्ष 15 अगस्त को बहुत भीड़ होती है—इस पिछले अनुभव को ध्यान में रखने हुए—क्या गाड़िया अधिक बढ़ाने की कोशिश नहीं की गई तथा भविष्य में इस प्रकार की घटनाओं को समाप्त करने के लिये सरकार आगे क्या कदम उठाने जा रही है।

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH: We are trying to increase the number of trains.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

DROUGHT IN ORISSA

*751. **SHRI A. DIPA:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the area covered by Phulbani District in

Orissa has been affected by drought continuously for the last three years;

(b) whether Government of Orissa have declared only 12% of the area as drought area on the basis of assessment made by the Collector of the area in spite of the fact that the Chief Minister and Industry Minister of Orissa declared at public meetings held at Uanla and Harbanga during their tours in November, 1967 that this area was completely a drought area;

(c) if so, whether Central Government have ascertained the correct position of the extent of drought prevalent in this area; and

(d) if so, the factual position in this regard and the nature of the assistance proposed to be given by the Central Government for this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The State Government is responsible for the assessment of scarcity and drought and their assessment is accepted for the purpose of undertaking relief works. The State Government has taken Phulbani district as a drought affected district on the basis of crop damage of 12% based on crop cutting surveys in each area. Taking up of relief works in any particular part of the district will be decided on by the State Government keeping in view the intensity of distress in that part.

(d) Central assistance is provided for the State as a whole and it is for the State Government to determine its utilization in the various parts of the State.

SINKING OF TUBEWELLS IN BIHAR

*753. **SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the German Democratic Republic has offered to sink a