

being attempted and breeding centres are being opened and extended.

Shri Kapur Singh: May I know whether the intensive cattle development programmes are intended to be co-ordinated with proper disposal of our economic cattle stocks?

Shri A. M. Thomas: That is a large problem which we find difficult to solve.

Mishap at Bangalore Railway Station

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*892. { **Shri A. V. Raghavan:**
Shri Pottekkatt:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 45 passengers were injured when the engine of the Bangalore-Madras Express bumped into the train while being coupled at Bangalore railway station on 3rd April, 1963;

(b) whether any action has been taken against the persons responsible for the accident; and

(c) the nature of injuries suffered by the passengers?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):

(a) Forty nine persons were injured.

(b) Disciplinary action against the staff held responsible has been initiated.

(c) All the 49 persons sustained minor injuries.

Shri A. V. Raghavan: May I know whether a similar accident took place in Howrah? What steps are proposed to be taken to bring down the number of such accidents?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: This question refers to Bangalore but the hon. Member asks about Howrah.

Mr. Speaker: He says that this type of accident occurred elsewhere and

wants to know whether any steps are being taken to see that they do not recur.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: We are always emphasising on the staff to avoid accidents.

Shri Basappa: May I know the extent of the damage caused to the property and also whether driver of the engine has been suspended?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The driver has been suspended; the damage to the engine is to the tune of Rs. 3,000.

Shri D. C. Sharma: What are the injuries which are characterised by the Railway Ministry as minor and do not these minor injuries invite any kind of compensation from the Railways? What is the difference between the minor and major injuries in the opinion of the Railway Ministry?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: These are well known medical terms and in their accepted meanings we are using them.

Chemical Fertilisers

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*893 { **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
Shri Subodh Hansda:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any information with regard to the resistance to the use of chemical fertilisers that are produced in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for this resistance by the consumers; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to improve the quality of the fertilisers?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shinde: (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in the Library. See No. LT-11-34/63.]

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know the reasons for the reported resistance of the farmers to use imported fertilisers?

Shri Shinde: Consumers' resistance is mainly to the ammonium sulphate nitrate and the new coloured ammonium sulphate. Resistance is not reported about the imported fertilisers.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether there are reports that the productivity of the soil deteriorates by the use of such fertilisers?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): It is a very wrong thing. Productivity of soil not only does not deteriorate but if fertiliser is used systematically as it should be used, for hundreds of years, productivity will not suffer.

Shri S. N. Chaturvedi: May I know whether the deterioration in the quality of the land is a long-term result or a short term result?

Shri S. K. Patil: Deterioration whenever it comes is caused by the faulty understanding of the science of fertilisers. I have seen farms in other parts of the world where for 120 years the same type of fertiliser has been used and yet productivity is on the increase.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: Some reasons have been mentioned in reply to part (b) of the question for consumers' resistance. May I know whether these reasons have been removed or not?

Shri S. K. Patil: Calcium ammonium nitrate being new, the farmers could not know the utility and therefore, there is bound to be resistance. There was resistance to irrigation also when it first started.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: It is not only the colour; there are other reasons.

Shri S. K. Patil: They can be overcome by using it constantly and show-

ing them that by proper use productivity will improve.

Shri Inder J. Malhotra: Application of chemical fertilisers is rather a technical thing. I would like to know what concrete steps in the recent past have been taken by Government to see that farmers who use fertilisers are given proper technical knowledge.

Shri S. K. Patil: This is a very good question, because our knowledge about the utilisation of fertilisers is very scanty indeed in this country. Therefore, every effort is made on our experimental farms and otherwise. We are also thinking that we should do it in a manner so that this knowledge should be available to the villagers.

Shri Maheswar Naik: May I know whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that the agricultural experts who are advising our farmers are not in a position to know even what proportion of fertilisers should be mixed, and that is why our farmers are hesitant.

Shri S. K. Patil: It may be true in a sense, because as I said in the very beginning, our knowledge of fertilisers is a little deficient in this country. We learn by experience. Even the experts will learn by experience.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Navigation along Hooghly

*890. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether two of the three river training works designed to facilitate navigation along the Hooghly have been completed;

(b) if so, the improvements introduced under these two schemes and those to be introduced under the third one; and