

Shri Mohiuddin: I cannot give the quantity of goods held up. Because, the system of chartering the planes is that those who want to charter put in their demands, and it happens that these demands are usually exaggerated. Of course, the I.A.C. has reported that there is demand for the transport of goods from Calcutta to Agartala during the last one month, and it is expected that the goods will be cleared.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: In view of the fact that there is absolutely no rail communication between Agartala and the rest of India, I would like to know whether the Ministry has made any evaluation as to the extra number of freighter aircraft needed for carrying the cargoes which are always being held up in Calcutta because of the lack of freighter aircraft, and whether Government propose to indent for them second-hand or first-hand or whatever kind they can obtain.

Shri Mohiuddin: It is not generally correct that the cargo is always held up. The cargoes are held up seasonally when there is a sudden demand during a certain season. Of course, the I.A.C. cannot anticipate when there will be a sudden demand, or increased demand, for cargo traffic. They know, for instance, that during the Puja season there is certain demand, and they provide for that demand. Similarly, they provide for other seasons. But, as I have just now stated it is expected that another freighter aircraft will be added to this route and the present difficulty will be overcome.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether this allergy of the Transport and Communications Ministry to the transport needs of Tripura and Manipur and Assam is not an annual feature and, if so, whether Government propose to improve the situation instead of making eye-wash statements in the House?

Shri Mohiuddin: Efforts are being made to improve the situation.

Shri Dasaratha Deb: In reply to my unstarred question No. 839 on the 8th May, 1962, the hon. Deputy Minister had said that there had been temporary shortage of freighter aircraft during January-February 1962 in the Agartala Calcutta sector. The Minister had also assured that every step would be taken to remove this difficulty. In spite of this assurance, within a week, how could this difficulty have arisen again? What were the special steps taken by the Minister to remove this difficulty?

Shri Mohiuddin: Difficulty has arisen because of the fact that one aircraft had to be withdrawn from that service on account of overhaul repairs etc. As soon as these aircraft are given certificate of air-worthiness, they will be put on the section.

Derailment of Poona Bangalore Express

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S.N.Q. 16. { Shri Mohsin:
 { Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for the derailment of Poona Bangalore Express between Kundgol and Saunshi on the 4th June, 1962.

(b) how many persons were killed and how many were injured;

(c) what was the actual time of derailment;

(d) when were the injured persons taken to the hospital;

(e) at what time the Railway relief van arrived at the place of accident;

(f) what help has been given to the dependents of the deceased and to the injured persons;

(g) whether any enquiry by a non-railway official or non-official will be instituted to enquire into the causes of derailment;

(h) whether Government are aware that the spot where the derailment has taken place i.e., 'Bennihalla' has often caused danger to railway carriages and some derailments had occurred at that very place previously; and

(i) whether any permanent remedy is thought to avoid future trouble at that spot?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The cause of derailment is under investigation.

(b) 5 persons died including one on the way to hospital and one later in hospital; 15 persons including one who died later in the hospital sustained serious injuries while, 47 had minor injuries.

(c) At about 06.00 hrs on 4.6.62.

(d) At 9.05 hrs. on 4.6.62.

(e) At 7.25 hours on 4.6.62.

(f) A sum of Rs. 5,700 has been paid as *ex-gratia* payment to the dependents of the deceased and to the injured persons.

(g) The Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety, Bangalore is conducting a statutory enquiry into the accident.

(h) There had been one case of a derailment of a goods train during the last four years and that was at Mile 11|11.

(i) This will be considered on receipt of the recommendations of the Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety.

Shri Mohsin: In addition to the *ex-gratia* payment that has been given to them, will the Government think of giving some compensation also to the dependents of the deceased and the injured persons?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: A Claims commissioner will be appointed. He will determine the quantum of claims to be paid to each individual.

Shri Mohsin: May I know whether the police dogs were brought to the

spot to see whether any sabotage was done and whether any useful purpose was served by these police dogs?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Unfortunately, these dogs could not prove very useful, because, the fish plates which were alleged to have been removed, were touched by a number of persons. If they had been left un-touched, the dogs would have been useful. Since so many people had touched, the dogs got confused and could not be of much use.

Shri Nambiar: May I know, in view of the fact that this is a serious case of derailment of express train, killing many and injuring many, whether the Government propose to have a public enquiry and not an official enquiry, for the reason that more information can be had and such incidents or accidents may not occur in future, as a preventive measure?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Swaran Singh): The inquiry that is already being held is by an independent authority. I do not know what is meant by 'public inquiry'. That is very much a public inquiry, and anybody who has got any information in his possession, which could be of use to the inquiring officer, is most welcome to place that information before him. I do not understand what the hon. Member means by a public inquiry.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is not a fact that fortunately those police dogs smelt the track and went to a nearby village and were about to spot out the culprits, but unfortunately or rather fortunately, the men who followed the dogs did not follow up the story?

Shri Swaran Singh: There is nothing for me to answer.

Shri Daji: Who is the inquiring officer?

Shri Swaran Singh: He is the Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety.

Shri Nambiar: That is why I say that it is not a public inquiry.

Shri Daji: What is his name?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: His name is Mr. Hart.

Shri Daji: What was specifically suggested was an inquiry by a judicial officer and not by an officer of the railways. Shall the Ministry have an inquiry by a judicial officer, independent of the railways?

Shri Nambiar: The inquiry should be a public inquiry.

Shri Swaran Singh: It is unnecessary, because he is not a railway official as has been pointed out on the floor of the House more than once, and he acts as an independent authority, more or less as a judicial authority.

Shri Daji: He is not fully independent.

Shri Hanumanthaiya: The scheme of the Government of India provides for independent inquiries so far as railway accidents are concerned, and the inspecting authority is under a different Ministry altogether, and not under the Railway Ministry; I think that is probably under the Ministry of Transport and Communications. The inquiry that is insisted upon. . . .

Mr. Speaker: What is the question that the hon. Member wants to ask? Does he want to ask any question?

Shri Hanumanthaiya: My question is this. Is not the present machinery devised as independent as independence could be thought of?

Mr. Speaker: That question has been answered already.

Shri Swaran Singh: That is correct.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO
QUESTIONS

राजस्थान में जल संभरण

*१४०८. श्री ५० ला० बाहूपाल : क्या स्वास्थ्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) राजस्थान में जिन स्थानों पर केवल खारा पानी उपलब्ध है वहाँ भीड़ पानी का संभरण करने की व्यवस्था के लिये भारत सरकार ने क्या योजना बनाई है;

(ख) तृतीय पंचवर्षीय योजना अवधि में राजस्थान में कितने नलकूप लगाने का विचार है; और

(ग) पीने के पानी की समस्या का पूर्ण रूप से समाधान कब तक हो जाने की आशा है ?

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री (डा० सुशीला नैयर) :

(क) राजस्थान में जिन स्थानों पर केवल खारा पानी उपलब्ध है वहाँ भीड़ पानी का संभरण करने की व्यवस्था के लिये राज्य सरकार ने अभी तक कोई योजना नहीं बनाई है।

(ख) फिलहाल ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव विचाराधीन नहीं है।

(ग) राजस्थान में पीने के पानी की समस्या का समाधान कब तक होगा उस का निर्धारण नहीं हो पाया है।

Coal Wagons

*1410. **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a decline in the movement of coal wagons by Railways during May 1962; and

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Eamsawamy): (a) Coal loading in May 1962 (upto 26th) was more by about 127 wagons per day on an average compared to May, 1961. Compared to the previous month of April, there has been a drop of 213 wagons per day.

(b) A drop occurs in the months of May and June every year compared to the previous months due to summer