

समस्या पर भारत सरकार से विचार-  
विमर्श किया ; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इस बार्ता का क्या  
परिणाम निकला ?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and  
Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):** (a)  
Yes, Sir.

(b) Mr. Benson took note of our  
requirements and we hope we shall  
hear in due course what the U.S.  
authorities are able to do.

**Shri Vajpayee:** Sir, on a point of  
order. The question has been tabled  
in Hindi and the reply should be in  
the same language.

**The Minister of Health (Shri Kar-  
markar):** He raises the objection in  
English!

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Members  
ought not to be too impatient. There  
are a number of hon. Ministers. Hindi  
is not their mother tongue and they  
are not very well acquainted with that  
language. They have made attempts  
to read Hindi answers. Then, when  
they read in a language which is not  
understandable and with different pro-  
nunciation, hon. Members themselves  
ask them what they said and request  
them to answer the question in  
English.

Evidently, he is not able to read the  
Hindi answer. So, shall we put him  
out as a Minister? What can be done?  
I would only appeal to the hon. Mem-  
bers. I am anxious that Hindi must  
spread in this country as quickly as  
possible but a kind of so much of  
urgency imposed upon the people sets  
that back. Every hon. Member knows  
and I also know what happened with  
regard to Sanskrit. It was a North  
Indian language. I can claim that in  
South India there are as good scholars  
in Sanskrit as in the North. There  
was no agency and no Government to  
compel it. This kind of pressure being  
brought to bear again and again ought  
not to be done. It is not Hindi class  
for which people have come. They

want to discuss and understand each  
other's arguments. We are engaged  
in a serious discussion. Whatever  
decision is taken affects not only 300  
millions. It is growing and today it  
is 380 millions. Let us not stick to  
this language or that language. The  
substance of what is said must be  
understood.

**Shri Vajpayee:** There are many  
Members who do not understand  
English.

**Mr. Speaker:** I know hon. Member  
can speak and actually speaks first-  
class English. Shri Mohan Swarup.

**Shri Mohan Swarup:** No supple-  
mentary.

**Shri Panigrahi:** What is the total  
requirements of foodgrains that we  
have asked for from the United States  
of America?

**The Minister of Food and Agricul-  
ture (Shri A. P. Jain):** We have sug-  
gested a certain figure but it is not in  
public interest to disclose that figure.

**Shri Panigrahi:** We had one agree-  
ment with the U.S.A. for 361 million  
dollars worth of food surplus to be  
supplied. Have we drawn all that?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** A quantity of  
six lakhs of tons remains.

#### Accident in Kottayam-Quilon Railway Line

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\*445. { Shri Kumaran:  
Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the Minister of Railways be  
pleased to state:

(a) the circumstances surrounding  
the accident that resulted in the tragic  
death of workers who were working  
in a tunnel in the newly constructed  
Kottayam-Quilon Railway line on  
the 20th October, 1957; and

(b) whether the authorities super-  
vising the work were in any way res-  
ponsible for the accident?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) and (b). A chunk of laterite soil slipped without forewarning on to the top of a concrete arch cover under construction in a cutting. A statement is laid on the Table of the House giving more details of the mishap. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 60.]

**Shri Kumaran:** In the statement laid on the Table, it is stated that supervisor was always present all time supervising the work. May I know whether the supervisor was not able to give the number of labourers engaged in the work and also the number of labourers missing when asked by the people who collected there after the accident? Press Correspondents and other people went to the site immediately after the accident and they asked for the number of people engaged in the work and also the number missing and this number could not be given. Is the Government aware of this?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** We are not aware of what the hon. Member has stated. Presumably, the job of the supervisor who was there was to supervise the technical aspect of the work. The labour employed is generally employed by the contractors and they are expected to maintain the details of the labour.

**Shri Kumaran:** How many were killed of these 11 workers?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** Only six persons.

**Shri Tangamani:** In the statement we find that eleven workers were engaged when the accident took place and six of them had been killed. May I know whether the dependents of the deceased persons and also the injured persons had been given adequate compensation?

**Mr. Speaker:** We are going away from one thing to some other thing. Were the authorities supervising the work in any way responsible for the accident? Now these are the consequences flowing out of the accident.

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** May I answer that question?

**Mr. Speaker:** If the hon. Minister is willing to answer, I am going to another question. The hon. Ministers need not answer whatever remotely arises out of any question here. There are other questions also.

#### **Electrification on Eastern Railway**

\*446. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether electrification from Burdwan onwards in Eastern Railway will be on A.C. basis;

(b) whether the Howrah-Burdwan stretch, however is to operate on D.C. basis;

(c) whether the A.C. or D.C. system will be adopted for the South-Eastern Railway suburban section from Howrah;

(d) what were the reasons for the original decision in favour of the D.C. system for the Calcutta area;

(e) what is the estimated lag in operative efficiency and financial loss involved in adopting the D.C. rather than the A.C. system between Howrah and Burdwan; and

(f) how difficulties arising out of the juxtaposition of A.C. and D.C. system at Howrah and Burdwan are sought to be eliminated?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Section Howrah-Burdwan *via* Main-line and Sheoraphuli-Tarakeshwar Branch will be operated on 3000 V DC for the time being but will eventually be converted to AC system by the time other suburban sections in Calcutta area are ready for operation on AC system.

(c) AC system will be adopted.