

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Let the question be answered first. Otherwise, nobody is able to understand what the question is. The hon. Member wanted to know how many of these 76 people have been kept under suspension.

Shri Shahnawas Khan: It is not 76 people, Sir. There were 76 cases of irregularities in the accounts.

Mr. Speaker: How many of them have been suspended? That was the question.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: One officer has been removed; one suspended.

Engine Collision at Ajani Station

*972. { **Shri Tangamani:**
 { **Shri Raghunath Singh:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that shunting engine collided with another engine in the loco-shed at Ajani Station on the Central Railway on the 26th February, 1958;

(b) if so, what is the extent of damage; and

(c) whether Railway employees were injured due to the accident?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes. At about 18-00 hours on 25th February, 1958 (and not on 26th February, 1958), while the empty rake of No. N Up local was being drawn into the Loco Shed at Ajani, its engine entered a short dead end siding in the Loco Shed and collided with another engine stabled in the siding.

(b) Rs. 530 only.

(c) Yes, three Railway employees travelling in the empty rake sustained minor injuries.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether it is not a fact that this accident took place because of the wrong shunting of the rake of the

local train, and whether, but for the brake applied by the driver, the damage would have been considerable, and if so, what benefit has been given or what promotion or benefit has been given to the driver, by way of any reward, for having averted this major accident?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member ought not to argue this matter. A simple question like "Any award will be given or not" may be put. That is all. It appears as if the hon. Member is now taking up the matter of any award that could be given to the driver. It is for the Government to decide whether any reward is to be given or not.

Shri Tangamani: In this particular case,.....

Mr. Speaker: It is embarrassing for the Government—whoever may be in position, and the Opposition may also find it so, when they come to occupy that position—to deal with such questions. In the Question Hour we are not to take up such matters. This is not a General Discussion of the Budget or the railway budget discussion. The simple question should be, "Has any reward been given or not?" I will not allow any suggestion to be made in the Question Hour and the Question Hour being utilised for that purpose.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether any reward has been given to the driver?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: As far as the result of our enquiry goes, we feel that it is the driver who was responsible for this accident and far from awarding him any rewards, he may have to be punished.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: It is really unfortunate that in spite of my saying again and again on the floor of this House that individual cases ought not to be taken up here at this time, it is persisted upon. There is no difference of opinion so far as con-

*The reply was corrected by the Deputy Minister of Railways on 27th March, 1958. See Debates of 27th March, 1958.

duct and discipline is concerned. Otherwise, it is derogatory to discipline. The Government in charge must always have an opportunity to look into the matter. It has got the opportunity, and when it goes into the matter it may come to a different conclusion. Am I to decide in the Question Hour whether the driver is entitled to an award or is liable to punishment? The Question Hour ought not to be used for such purposes.

Shri Raghunath Singh: What steps were taken against those persons who were responsible for this accident?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The accident took place on 25th February, and enquiries were held and so far the action has not been finalised.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether this accident was due to the wrong setting of the line for receiving the rake?

Mr. Speaker: What is the cause of the accident? That is the question.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The cause of the accident is also still under enquiry.

Shri Tangamani: The driver was there.

Mr. Speaker: That is his tentative or provisional opinion. Before the enquiry is done, nobody can say what is what. Next question.

Remodelling of Ahmedabad Station Yard

*973. **Shri Yajnik:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided on any plans for remodelling the meter-gauge railway yard at the Ahmedabad Station;

(b) whether Government have received any report from the Bombay State regarding the land and its location for the proposed meter-gauge yard; and

(c) whether any part of the whole of the Madhobhai Mill Colony is to be excluded from the proposed meter-gauge yard?

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

(b) Not yet.

(c) Yes. But the details of the proposals are still under consideration.

Shri Yajnik: I want to know if the Bombay Government has been approached in the matter to suggest any alternative plot in consultation with the Western Railway management for locating the remodelled yard with a view to save the industry of the Madhobhai Mill Colony?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: We have received several representations regarding this Madhobhai Mill Colony and the people settled there. We have received a number of representations, and negotiations are going on with the State Government of Bombay. Nothing has been decided finally.

Shri Yajnik: Is this re-modelling project of the station yard likely to be taken up during this year or next year?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: We would like to take it up this year. Of course, it all depends on the acquisition of land. The moment the land is made available to us, we would like to take it up as early as possible.

Shri Yajnik: Has the Government considered the possibility of having an alternative site, which is just like the Madhobhai Mill Colony, which is actually owned by the railway and which includes a large number of railway buildings and railway property, which can be easily occupied?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The feasibility of selecting an alternative site is also under consideration, and we are in communication with the Bombay Government.