

property before his death in 1931. She might have filed her claim for that property. My father died in 1914 and as a widow, my step-mother would be entitled to priority under the Compensation Scheme. If she has been paid some cash in accordance with the Compensation Rules, I have no knowledge of it.

As Minister in charge of the Compensation Scheme, my position is peculiar and difficult. There is no authority outside those prescribed under the Act who can pass orders in regard to claims and compensation. All these orders are of a judicial nature. Nevertheless, as I do not want that any matter which concerns me or the members of my family should be finally decided by officers of my Ministry, I propose to refer any such matter whenever it arises to the Prime Minister for such procedural consideration that may be deemed necessary.

It is a matter of regret to me that Shri Bhupesh Gupta, who is a colleague of mine in the Rajya Sabha, did not extend to me the ordinary courtesy of enquiring from me the facts of this matter before splashing it in his paper. If he had done so, he would have been saved the odium of having published something which was patently untrue and malicious and the time of the House would not have been unnecessarily taken.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Civil Airport at Delhi

\*1717. Shri Rameshwar Tantia: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 368 on the 20th February, 1958, and state whether any site has been selected for locating a new civil airport at Delhi?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Ahmed Mohiuddin): The matter is still under consideration.

##### South Delhi Municipal Committee

\*1718. Shri Shobha Ram: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state what action Government is taking on the request of the Delhi Administration to expedite the payment of about two lakhs to the South Delhi Municipal Committee as service charges for Government properties within the South Delhi Municipal Committee?

The Minister of Health (Shri Kar-markar): Out of a total claim of Rs. 2,80,459 the Municipal Committee have already received payment of Rs. 1,40,795. Under article 285 of the Constitution of India, the property of the Union Government is exempt from State taxation and the Municipal Committee therefore cannot levy any property tax on the Central Government properties within its limits. At the same time it has been decided the Municipal Committee should be paid service charges in respect of such property. The Delhi Administration has therefore been asked to fix the percentage of the property tax which represents the element of service charges due for such properties. Necessary action will be taken on receipt of the report of the Delhi Administration.

##### Accident near Jaulkhera

\*1722. Shri Asar: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was an accident on the 18th March, 1958 near Jaulkhera Station in Amla-Nagpur Division to the Delhi-Nagpur passenger train;

(b) the number of passengers injured and loss sustained by the Railways; and

(c) what was the cause of the accident?