

due to the floods we have lost something, no doubt, but in other parts there are more crops.

**Shri C. K. Bhattacharya:** One part of my question has not been answered. What is the total damage to crops caused by the last floods?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** I have said the final figures have not been received, but whatever the damage, it is more than compensated by better crops in the other parts.

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** In view of the fact that the deficit of Bengal is much more than the surplus of Orissa, may we know what steps Government intend taking to see that the price of rice does not rise abnormally in Orissa and that all the rice is not taken out of Orissa?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** Some kind of disparity will always exist unless West Bengal is really made self-sufficient in food. That should be the attempt.

**Shri Subiman Ghose:** Since the Minister said that during the food movement the price of rice shot up, may I know the price before the movement and the price during the continuance of the movement?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** In fact, in the answer to the question I have not accepted the suggestion of the hon. lady Member that because of the food movement prices came down. That way, it would be the best remedy to launch movements. That is not correct. It is because of the floods that the prices shot up after showing a decline, and again when it was known to the public that the crops would be much better than anticipated, the price is again showing a decline.

**Shri Tangamani:** I would like to know whether after the formation of the zone, procurement of rice by the Orissa Government will continue, or will it be discontinued?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** All this and allied questions will be replied when I reply to the debate.

### Derailment of Train

+

\*1090. { **Shri Khushwaqt Rai:**  
**Shri Amjad Ali:**  
**Shri Arjun Singh**  
**Bhadauria:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a running train on the Bankura Damodar River Light Railway was thrown off the track between Kumrul and Inda stations in a cyclonic storm on the 1st October, 1959;

(b) whether it is also a fact that one passenger was killed and eight injured as a result thereof; and

(c) why was the train not detained at Kumrul station when information about the cyclone had reached there in advance?

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

(b) One passenger was killed and 14 (including three railway staff) were injured.

(c) No information about the cyclone was available while the train was at Kumrul Station. I may add that it is a privately owned narrow gauge railway.

**Shri Kamalnayan Bajaj (Wardha):** May I know whether there is a provision that when there are cyclones like this, prior information should be got?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** None was available for this railway.

**Shri Kamalnayan Bajaj:** May I know whether any provision is being made so that in future it may not happen again?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** As far as I am aware, no provision is being made.

**Shri Subiman Ghose:** Since this station is within four miles of my village, I know something about it. It is a lilliput train.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It is not what he knows, it is what he does not know that he should ask.

**Shri Subiman Ghose:** I am giving some information to the Minister.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That might be reserved for some other opportunity. He might ask now what he does not know.

**Shri Subiman Ghose:** I am taking the information from him. Is the Minister aware that it is written in every compartment in the train that during hurricanes or cyclones the doors and windows of the compartments should be kept open? Is the Minister aware of that fact?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** As I said, it is a privately-owned railway. Personally I am not aware of that, but what I am aware of is that when the storm came, it was about 3:30 in the afternoon. The train was halted, and then the storm overtook it. It toppled over all the coaches.

**Shri B. K. Gaikwad:** May I know whether the hon. Minister will enlighten us whether such blowing of railway train in a storm had ever happened in the past?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** I cannot say off-hand, but I know sometimes it does happen. An odd railway empty wagon is toppled over, but I cannot give him definite information. I shall require notice.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** If it has happened once, it might happen again.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** I want to know whether the Government has in mind nationalisation of these light railways.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That is a different thing altogether. It has been toppled over, therefore we should nationalise? If it is nationalised, the storm would not topple it over?

**Shri Sonavane:** May I know whether action will be taken to prevent similar incidents on other light railways.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Let us hope it will not happen here also.

### Ship Repairing Yard at Cochin Port

**\*1092. Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start a Ship Repairing Yard in the Cochin Port; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken for the same?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) and (b). There is no proposal under consideration for starting a Ship Repairing Yard in Cochin. However, as the Hon'ble Member is aware, the Govt. have decided to establish a Shipbuilding Yard in Cochin, subject to the results of the further investigations into the soil conditions being satisfactory. Steps are accordingly being taken to conduct the necessary investigations at the proposed site. Action has also been taken under the Cochin Land Acquisition Act to notify the intention of Government to acquire about 73 acres of private land for the proposed Shipbuilding Yard.

**Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** May I know whether Government is aware that because of the absence of ship repairing facilities in Cochin, a large number of ships is diverted to Colombo and Cochin Port is losing trade because of that?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** We do require ship repairing facilities along the coast, and the Shipyard Committee of the U.K. technical mission which went into this question had advised and as the hon. Member knows we have accepted the recommendations of that Committee, for the establishment of a shipyard at Cochine which would include dry dock facilities and enable the ships to get the necessary ship repair facilities.

**Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** May I know whether it is not a fact that the British technical mission which recommended the location of the shipbuilding yard, conducted a survey of the suitability of the soil and made a