

at Rs. 12 to Rs. 14 per maund, the same is marketed in Bombay at Rs. 22, whereas the expenses involved are not more than Rs. 2.32? If not, may I request the hon. Minister to study that letter and give some redress to the farmer?

Mr. Speaker: Every farmer will try to get more price. Next question.

Railway Accident in Bombay

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*1707. { **Shri Assar:**
Shri U. L. Patil:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Bombay recently an accident took place when six passengers were killed on Western Railway while they were travelling by local trains to see Air Display on the I.A.F. Day; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) and (b). On the I.A.F. Day, on 3rd April, 1960 there was phenomenal overcrowding in the suburban trains of the Western Railway going to and coming from Churchgate station. In spite of elaborate arrangements made and repeated warnings given, a very large number of people indulged in travelling on footboards windows and buffers. There was utter disregard for discipline and order amongst the passengers. The result was that 14 cases of injuries to passengers due to falling out of trains were reported from different places and of these, 4 proved fatal.

Shri Assar: May I know why additional trains were not run by the railway authorities anticipating heavy rush due to the Air Display?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: 4 extra trains were run. But even the normal trains could not be run, because there was so much of chain-pulling and the trains went out of schedule.

Shri Assar: May I know whether ad hoc compensation has been paid to the families of those who were killed by this accident?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: There have been no claims and no compensation has been paid.

Shri Tyagi: Have any instructions been issued recently to the station staff of railways to allow beggars and other vagabonds on the platform without any platform ticket to beg in the trains?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: How does it arise out of this question?

Shri Tyagi: It arises because it is they who get into the platform first without any ticket.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: This I.A.F. display attracted about 7 lakh people, and at least half of them travelled by train. It is a stupendous number that we had to carry and because the crowd was not disciplined and was disorderly this has happened.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Purchase of Railway Stores

*1693. { **Shri Abdul Salam:**
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri R. C. Majhi:
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board has agreed to purchase stores from the small industries sector with assistance of the National Small Industries Corporation; and

(b) if so, the value of purchases made by the Board so far in 1959-60?

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

(b) The present procedure is in the course of implementation on Railways. However, the value of purchases of stores falling under the category of Cottage and Small Industries' Products is Rs. 1,47,39,729 (during the

period from April, 1959 to December, 1959).

Bridges on National Highway No. 29

*1696. **Shri Kalika Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) at what stages are the constructions or reconstructions of bridges on the National Highway No. 29 Varanasi-Gorakhpur road;

(b) whether there was any proposal to set up pontoon bridge in place of any bridge on this National Highway;

(c) if so, what happened to the pontoon proposals;

(d) whether the scheme of reconstruction of bridge at Mau on Tons river is proceeding according to plan; and

(e) if so, at what stage is the implementation of the scheme?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 66.]

Clash between Railway Sainiks and Gangsters

*1700. **Shri Subiman Ghose:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether a band of gangsters snatched away a gun and several cartridges from Railway Sainiks from Barakar station, Eastern Railway on the 2nd March, 1960;

(b) if so, what was the approximate number of gangsters and the number of Sainiks;

(c) whether the gangsters were looting Railway property at that time;

(d) whether any enquiry has been held; and

(e) what steps Government have taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir. One Musket without any ammunition was snatched away from the custody of a Rakshak while he was on duty near Barakar station on 2-3-1960.

(b) There was a gang of 10-12 criminals while the number of Rakshaks was only 2.

(c) This was a case of an attempt to commit theft.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Immediately after the incident, raids were held in the neighbouring areas and search parties were sent to different directions with the result that the stolen musket was recovered intact. One of the local criminals has also been arrested and vigorous police investigation is afoot to trace out all the accused persons.

Chemical Fertilizers for Madras

*1708. **Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of chemical fertilizers allotted to Madras State during the year 1959-60 and the quantity supplied during the same period;

(b) the reasons for the short supply;

(c) what is the demand for the year 1960-61; and

(d) how much Government propose to supply during the current year?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 67.]

रामपुर-हल्द्वानी रेलवे लाइन

*१७०६. श्री प्रकाशबीर शास्त्री : क्या रेलवे मंत्री २८ मार्च, १९५६ के तारंकित प्रश्न संख्या १५१६ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) रामपुर से हद्दपुर होते हुए हल्द्वानी तक नई रेलवे लाइन बनाने के सम्बन्ध