

Shri S. K. Patil: The reasons are varied. But, they oppose it particularly because they will have to bear some additional expenditure. Some of them do not want—and some of them have suggested—that in a socialist State we should add to the expenditure.

Ring Railway Around Delhi

*438. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 203 on the 20th November, 1956 and state the progress made regarding the scheme for the construction of a ring railway around Delhi, so as to connect all the new colonies with New Delhi?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah nawaz Khan): The proposal is still under investigation.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know how long this proposal has been under consideration and how long will it take for investigation?

Shri Shah nawaz Khan: The reply of the General Manager of the Northern Railway was received in July 1955 and he was asked to go into further details regarding the traffic surveys and also to re-estimate the earnings because the Railway Board thought that it could be improved. The matter is still under consideration. And, I might inform the hon. Member that this line is not included in the lines that are to be constructed during the Second Five Year Plan.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if this is not included in the Second Five Year Plan, is it being considered in order that it may be included in the Third Five Year Plan?

Shri Shah nawaz Khan: It is too early to say anything about it.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether the ring railway will be overground or underground?

Shri Shah nawaz Khan: It will be very much overground if and when it is constructed.

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि रिंग रेलवे का जो नई दिल्ली से बिनयनगर तक का भाग है वह पहली पंचवर्षीय योजना में नहीं था और अगर नहीं था तो क्या इसी तरीके से प्रागे भी हो सकता है और रिंग रेलवे प्रागे बनाई जा सकती है ?

Mr. Speaker: It is a hypothetical question.

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : मेरे प्रश्न का जवाब नहीं दिया गया ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उसमें कुछ जवाब देने के लिए नहीं है ।

Railway Accident at Sealdah North Station

*439. **Shri Sadhan Gupta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether a railway accident occurred on the 21st February, 1957 at the Sealdah North Station;

(b) if so, the number of casualties caused thereby; and

(c) the amount of compensation paid for the loss of life of railway employees and whether such compensation is in excess or equal to that provided for under the Workmen's Compensation Act?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah nawaz Khan): (a) Yes. at about 13-25 hours on 21-2-57 the rake of S 395 Up Passenger bumped into the engine attached to the rake of S 411 Up Local Passenger on Line No. 1 at Sealdah North Station.

(b) Killed	1	Rly. staff Died in the hospital.	
Injured			
Grievous	1	Rly. staff	
Minor	11	Rly. staff Passengers in rake of S.411- Up.	4
Total	12		11

(c) The amount of compensation sanctioned in the case of the one employee who lost his life is Rs. 3,000/- as due under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: Is it not a fact that an agreement was reached on the day with the railwaymen providing for payment of compensation and, if so, what was the agreement reached; whether it was regarding payment of compensation equal to that permitted by the Workmen's Compensation Act or some other compensation?

Shri Shah nawas Khan: It is always understood that any compensation to be paid would be in accordance with the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: My question was whether there was any agreement.

Shri Shah nawas Khan: The agreement was to the effect that compensation would be paid in accordance with the Workmen's Compensation Act and that the payment would be made promptly.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know whether there was also a stipulation in the agreement for providing employment to the son of the deceased and whether anything has been done in that respect?

Shri Shah nawas Khan: As far as I am aware, there was no such undertaking. In hard cases of this nature, the Railways always consider that; but, there was no undertaking given.

Mr. Speaker: Is such an undertaking or agreement valid that his son would be employed irrespective of qualifications?

Shri Sadhan Gupta: That is done on the Railways.

Railway Accident between Delhi Hardinge Bridge and Nizamuddin

*440. **Shri Radha Raman:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there had been frequent fatal accidents of

trains running over persons between New Delhi Hardinge Bridge and Nizamuddin;

(b) the number of such accidents which occurred during 1956-57; and

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to avoid such accidents?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah nawas Khan): (a) and (b). During the year 1956-57, 3 cases of trains running over trespassers occurred between New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin railway stations.

(c) Fencing is provided at places where it is feasible and trespassing is prevalent. Also State Government authorities who are in direct charge of prevention of trespass, are apprised of the accidents as they occur, so that they may intensify their efforts to prevent trespass.

Shri Radha Raman: The hon. Minister has just now said that fencing is provided in this area to avoid accidents. If that is so, how do these accidents occur? May I also know whether in view of the recurrence of accidents, Government proposes to take some more steps in order to avoid these accidents in future?

Shri Shah nawas Khan: It is impossible for any Government or any organisation to prevent people from being run over (*Interruptions*). I mean to say, people who are determined to be run over. What I mean to say is this. A person who is determined to be run over by the train cannot be prevented from being run over. In this case, out of these three deaths, one gentleman committed suicide and he jumped in front of the running train; no fencing would prevent that sort of a thing. Another death was that of a person who was deaf and dumb and so could not hear the train coming.

Mr. Speaker: Next question. There are as many as 89 questions today.