

determine claims for compensation arising out of accidents to trains carrying passengers.

(b) In respect of minor accidents, the District Judge or District Magistrate of the civil district is *ex-officio* the Claims Commissioner. For major accidents, *ad hoc* Claims Commissioners are appointed to deal with all claims that may arise out of them.

(c) A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 26.]

Shri K. C. Sodhia: How many major accidents were enquired into by these officers?

Shri Alagesan: Sir, I cannot give the number offhand.

QUININE

*1370, **Shri Ganpati Ram:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Quinine manufactured in India during the years 1951-52 and 1952-53;

(b) the total number of factories where quinine is manufactured in India;

(c) the total quantity of quinine imported from and exported to foreign countries and value thereof during the last two years; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to develop the industry?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) The information has been called for from the Governments of Madras and West Bengal and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(b) Two—one at Mungpoo in West Bengal and the other at Naduvattam in Madras.

(c) The imports of quinine during the last two years are as follows:—

Year	Quantity	Value
	lbs.	Rs.
1950-1951	284	14,808
1951-1952	41,775	15,29,082

Figures regarding exports of quinine are not available.

(d) The State Governments of Madras and West Bengal who own the quinine factories are experiencing difficulty in marketing even their present production and stocks of quinine salts are accumulating with them. The Special Cinchona Committee which was set up to go into various matters relating to quinine has just submitted

its report and the whole matter will be examined in consultation with the producing State Governments in a Conference to be held shortly.

Shri P. T. Chacko: What is the amount spent by the Government for cinchona production in West Bengal and Madras, and what is the value of the quinine which has been manufactured from these plantations?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: I have no information now.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In view of the answer given that the State Governments are finding it difficult to market this quinine, may I know what is the reason for it—because there is already a very high incidence of malaria in the country?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): The main reason is that most State Governments prefer to use the synthetic drugs that are now in plenty in the market.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know the cost of imported quinine as compared to the cost of quinine produced in India?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I would like to have notice.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know whether indigenous product of quinine has to compete mainly with foreign imported quinine?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: There is no pure quinine imported at all. So the question of indigenous product of quinine competing with foreign imports does not arise. It is a question of synthetic drugs which are competing.

Shri Beli Ram Das: The Government is aware that Assam also grows quinine. May I know the quantity produced by Assam?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No quinine is produced in Assam. It is produced only in Madras and Bengal.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT NEAR PENNADAM

*1371. **Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loss to Government on account of the accident that took place to the Goods train near Pennadam Railway Station, between Virdhachalam and Trichinopoly on the Southern Railway on the 31st March, 1953; and

(b) the main reasons of the accident?