

TRANSPORT ADVISORY COUNCIL

*157. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:**
(a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether a meeting of the Transport Advisory Council was held recently in Delhi?

(b) If so, what was the agenda of the session?

(c) What were the decisions arrived at the session?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the agenda is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix J annexure No. 33]

(c) The proceedings of the Council will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as the draft is finalised.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT AT SAMBALPUR

*159. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 15th January, 1953, a passenger train collided with a goods train at Sambalpur (Orissa) in the Eastern Railway Zone;

(b) whether there was any loss of property and life and if so, to what extent;

(c) whether any enquiry was conducted to ascertain the causes leading to the accident; and

(d) if so, what are its results?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes. At about 16-25 hours on 15th January, 1953, while No. 66 Up Passenger train was standing at Sambalpur Road station on the Jharsuguda-Sambalpur Branch Line of the Eastern Railway, an Up Through Goods train which was following it from Jharsuguda station, ran into its rear.

(b) There was no loss of life but three passengers received injuries, the injuries to two were minor. The approximate cost of damage to the engine rolling stock and permanent way was Rs. 85,700.

(c) and (d). An enquiry was held by the Government Inspector of Railways, Circle No. 1, Calcutta. His final report is awaited. *Prima facie* the accident was caused by failure of Railway staff.

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TOURIST OFFICE IN NEW YORK

*160. **Shri Buchhikotaiah:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether a Tourist Office has been opened by Government in New York?

(b) What is the initial expenditure involved in opening this office?

(c) What are the estimates regarding the annual recurring expenditure on this office?

(d) What is the total number of staff, belonging to various categories, employed in this office?

(e) How many of them are Indian and how many non-Indian?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) The estimated expenditure during 1952-53 is Rs. 79,000.

(c) Rs. 1,51,000.

(d) Three as detailed below:—

Director	...	1
Tourist Information Assistant	...	1
Secretary to the Director	...	1

(e) Two Indians and one non-Indian.

VIJAYAWADA AERODROME

*161. **Shri Gopala Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what steps the Government of India propose to take to improve the aerodrome at Vijayawada in view of the formation of the Andhra State?

(b) Do Government propose to arrange facilities at Vijayawada aerodrome for air-service to civilian population, in view of the formation of the Andhra State in the near future?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The aerodrome facilities at present available at the Vijayawada Aerodrome are adequate to serve its present needs.

(b) On account of the poor air traffic potential of Vijayawada, none of the air companies is willing to operate an air service from this town or to provide a scheduled halt there.