

(d) The results of the cases are not yet known.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know, Sir, the chief reasons for this increase in the number of accidents in 1953 compared to 1952?

Shri V. V. Giri: Yes, I must admit there is a little increase. But one cannot be sure of the causes. They may be the usual causes as a result of which these accidents occur.

Shri Joachim Alva: During the last Session I enquired of the hon. Minister what were the modern devices they were adopting for the security of workers in these mines. I want to ask Government whether they merely rely on the reports of inspectors and busy themselves after an accident or are they looking for up-to-date devices for security of workers in the mines.

Shri V. V. Giri: After an accident occurs, immediately enquiry is made and the whole matter is examined. And apart from it, the authorities are very careful to see that similar accidents do not occur. On the other hand, we are thinking of an expert committee to go into these matters also.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether in some cases the trial could not be proceeded with due to the absence of the Inspector of Mines at the time of the trial?

Shri V. V. Giri: If the Inspector of Mines is not there, the Deputy Inspector goes. But generally the Inspectors of Mines makes it a point to rush to the place.

RAILWAY WAGONS

*293. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how many new wagons have been placed on the line during the half year 1st April 1953 to 30th September, 1953;

(b) out of this, the number imported and

(c) how many overaged wagons were taken off the rails and scrapped during the year 1952-53?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) 3,702.

(b) 932.

(c) 2,193.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know, Sir, how the cost of an imported wagon compares with that of the indigenous manufacture?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Sir, the cost of the imported wagon ex-works is lower than that of the indigenous.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I have the specific figure regarding the cost of the wagon?

Shri Alagesan: I do not have the figures here. But I can supply them to the hon. Member.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: What is the estimated requirement of wagons all over India in all the railways?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Sir, the annual replacement requirements of this country are 5,000 wagons, but we are in arrears on account of the last war by 30,920 wagons.

श्री आर० एन० सिंह : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि इस जोन में कितने वैगन चल रहे हैं ?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: This information has been placed on the Table of the House.

SCALES OF PAY OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

*294. **Shri Gidwani:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that certain pre-1931 Railway employees who retained the old scale of pay and were transferred to the old East Indian Railway consequent on partition are still drawing the pay of Pakistan Railways viz., N.W. and B.A. Railways?