

capsized. Three Military coaches next to the wagons also capsized.

(b) The cause of the accident is under investigation by the Government Inspector of Railways who has commenced his inquiry at Shamgarh on 20th August 1954.

(c) The position on 20th August 1954 in respect of casualties is as follows:—

- (i) Number of persons' 11, including one killed. of the seriously injured who died on way to the hospital and another who died in the hospital.
- (ii) Number of persons 8, excluding 2 who seriously injured. died as referred to above
- (iii) Number of persons 38 slightly injured.

(d) and (e). Twenty-seven injured persons including 8 seriously injured were admitted into Kotah Military hospital. Of these, one died and at 21 hours on 18th August 1954, 17 were removed by air in a Military dakota plane to Delhi Military hospital. The balance of 9 are in the Kotah Military hospital and were to be removed by air in a Military dakota plane at 16:00 hours on 20th August 1954.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know when the Government Inspector of Railways, about whom the hon. Deputy Minister said that he is holding an enquiry, will submit the report of the enquiry?

**Shri Alagesan:** Generally this is done very quickly. He has commenced it on the 20th August and we are expecting the report.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know whether through-service has been resumed on that line?

**Shri Alagesan:** Not yet.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** When is it likely to be resumed? By what time?

**Shri Alagesan:** It may take some more time.

**Shri N. L. Joshi:** May I know whether the bridge had undergone repairs and whether sufficient precautions were taken to see that no accidents take place?

**Shri Alagesan:** All this, we will be able to know after the report of the enquiry is received.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** May I know if no departmental enquiry was held to ascertain the cause of the accident. The Government Inspector of Railways belongs to the Communications Ministry; have not Railways themselves conducted any enquiry?

**Shri Alagesan:** It is the Government Inspector of Railways who holds enquiry into all these things.

**Shri Gidwani:** May I know whether any compensation has been given to those who have been killed?

**Mr. Speaker:** I am afraid this question is premature. Let the causes of the accident be ascertained and after they are ascertained, then of course, the liability of the Railways can be fixed, and not till then. The hon. Member seems to assume that the Government and the Railways are responsible even for accidents. That is not the case. Unless some element of negligence, to my mind, is there, the question of liability cannot arise.

#### FLOODS

**Mr. Speaker:** There are two more short notice questions, regarding floods. One is by Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy and a number of other Members—all those are bracketed—and the other is by Shri A. P. Sinha. I think both these questions can be put one after the other and the hon. Minister may answer them together.

**S.N.Q. 2. Shri A. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unprecedented floods have visited the whole of North Bihar causing wide and

heavy damage to roads including National Highways, railway tracks, telegraph wires and poles, crops and homesteads;

(b) if so, the extent of the damages caused; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to meet this dreadful calamity stating also the nature and the amount of relief rendered?

**S.N.Q. 3. Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a great damage has been caused to the lives and properties of people, National Highways, Railway Tracks, etc., as a result of flood havoc in Bihar, West Bengal, Assam and the Punjab;

(b) if so, whether any assessment of the damage has been made by Government;

(c) the measures that have been taken by Government to render relief to the sufferers; and

(d) whether any enquiry committee will be set up to enquire into the devastation caused by floods and to suggest long-term remedies to prevent such havoc in future?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** The question put by Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy and parts (a) and (b) of the question put by Shri A. P. Sinha would be covered by a statement\* which the hon. Home Minister is going to make. The information I can supply is as follows:

The Minister of Home Affairs is making a statement today regarding the general flood situation in the country and the extent of damage caused by the floods.

The Government of India have agreed to give the following assistance to Bihar Government, who have approached in this behalf:

(i) To issue wheat from Central Stocks at a concessional rate of Rs. 12

per maund, against the issue price of Rs. 14/8/- per maund, for sale in flood-affected areas;

(ii) to Bihar Government issuing rice from their own stocks for sale at a subsidised rate of Rs. 15 per maund, i.e., Rs. 4 per maund below the economic cost, the Centre bearing half the subsidy;

(iii) to sanction a grant to State Government equal to 50 per cent. of the Expenditure on *Gratuitous Relief* up to the first two crores and 75 per cent. thereafter, which will include subsidy given under items (i) and (ii) above;

(iv) the Government of India is also trying to facilitate Bihar Government to enable it to advance loans to the sufferers.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** May I know whether the Minister can give us an idea as to how much amount of money has been so far spent by the Central Government on relief?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** The Government of India had given this authority to the Bihar Government and they will know the figure when they receive the accounts.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** I am asking this question: what is the total amount spent over these areas—Bihar and other areas?

**Mr. Speaker:** Has he not given the answer? The amount sanctioned is about Rs. 2 crores and odd. It is to be spent through the Bihar Government and they will recoup.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** What about other States?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I can mention some figures. The total amount spent or proposed to be spent for gratuitous relief in the three States is estimated to be as follows: Bihar—Rs. 158.05 lakhs;