

Shri Nambiar: May I know, Sir, since when coaches are carrying loads of coal?

JOINING AMRAVATI WITH THE MAIN RAILWAY LINE

***246. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the cost of joining Amravati with the main railway line from Nagpur to Bombay?

(b) What is the position of this proposal?

(c) Have Government received any representation in this matter?

(d) If so, have Government taken any decision on it?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) The cost of bringing Amravati on the main Railway line was estimated in 1946 at Rs. 37-33 lakhs.

(b) The question of diverting the main line between Bombay and Nagpur via Amravati was investigated in 1946 but in view of the poor financial prospects revealed by the Traffic Survey Report, the project was dropped.

(c) Yes.

(d) As already stated in reply to part (b), it was decided to drop the project and Government do not see any reason to revise the decision.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is it not a fact that the branch line between Nagpur and Amravati is the most costly line in the whole of India?

Mr. Speaker: He is entering into an argument. We may proceed to the next question.

ACCIDENT IN RAJKUMARI CHOWK ROAD, AMRAVATI

***247. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a fatal accident was caused by the negligent act of the Posts and Telegraphs Department servants to Shri Shashikant Nawathe of Amravati on public thoroughfare on 22nd August, 1951 while passing by the crowded Rajkumari Chowk road, where he contacted loosely lying coils of telephone wires on the street?

(b) Is it a fact that the gangmen of the department were working without the necessary instruments and necessary precautions on the live electric wires without stopping the electric current?

(c) Has the District Magistrate made enquiries into the accident and, if so, with what result?

(d) Has any compensation been paid so far and if not, why not?

(e) What measures has the Posts and Telegraphs Department taken to give redress to the persons affected?

(f) Will Government institute a full and detailed enquiry into the accident?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) I regret to say that it is a fact that Shri Shashikant Nawathe of Amravati met with a fatal accident near the Rajkumari Chowk by treading on a coil of telephone wires one of which happened to have become charged by accidental contact with a live wire.

(b) The workmen of the department were dismantling two spare telephone wires one of which accidentally got charged by contact with a live electric wire, whose insulation had been damaged. The workmen had the necessary tools but had gone inside a building to remove an obstruction when the accident happened.

(c) I am not aware of any enquiry made by the District Magistrate.

(d) and (e). The parents of the deceased have given notice of a Civil Suit against Government while the question of making an *ex gratia* payment to them is under consideration.

(f) The accident has already been investigated by officers of the P. and T. Department, by the police and by the Electrical Inspector to the Government of Madhya Pradesh. It is not proposed to institute any further enquiry into the matter.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, has the Government determined the amount which they are prepared to pay to the father of the deceased?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Sir, I am not prepared to divulge the information at this stage. I have asked my officers to negotiate with the parents of the deceased.

RURAL POST OFFICES (BERAR)

***248. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state if there are any villages with a population of 2,000 and more which are yet to have an independent Post Office in Berar (M.P.)?

(b) Is there any proposal to establish Post Offices there and if so, by what time?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Has this target been reached in any part of the country?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Not yet, Sir. There are many States in which it has not been reached.

IMPORT AND PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS

*249. **Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains imported in 1951-52;

(b) the quantity of foodgrains procured in 1951-52;

(c) whether any target for additional food production was fixed for 1951-52 and if so, what was the target; and

(d) whether the target fixed was reached?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) From 1st April 1951 to 31st March 1952 5.24 million tons of foodgrains were imported into India.

(b) During 1951 a total quantity of 3,770 thousand tons of foodgrains was procured in India. During 1952 up to 26-4-52 the quantity procured amounted to 1927 thousand tons.

(c) Yes Sir, the target of additional production of foodgrains in 1951-52 over the production in 1950-51 has been fixed at 14 lakh tons.

(d) It is not possible at this stage to state what the results for 1951-52 will be. Production targets are fixed for the agricultural year and that year will close at the end of June, 1952.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether the Government are procuring foodgrains from all the States, and if so, whether the procurement is on the same basis from all the States?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice.

Mr. Speaker: Question Hour is over. I will now call short notice questions. In respect of this, I may state that I received from six different hon. 55 PSD

Members notices of questions on the same subject. I have admitted that one which I am just now calling, it being wider in scope, and probably it will cover all the supplementaries that can be raised on the other questions. Of course, the other hon. Members who have tabled short-notice questions which have been disallowed will get an opportunity of putting supplementaries over the main question which I have allowed.

Short Notice Question and Answer

RAILWAY COLLISION NEAR BIKANER

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the statement of the Prime Minister made in the House on the 20th May, 1952 regarding the train accident near Bikaner and state if he is now in a position to make a further statement on the subject?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): Yes. I am in a position to give the following further information:—

(i) The latest position in respect of the dead and injured is as follows:

(a) Dead—45.

(b) Injured—67.

(c) Still in hospital on 24-5-52—47.

(d) Lists are placed on the Table of the House showing the names and addresses of the dead and the injured. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 6.]

(ii) Through communication was restored at about 11-30 A.M. on 20-5-1952.

(iii) The following passenger carrying train services were affected as a result of the accident:—

19-5-1952: Passengers of 24 Down of 18-5-1952, which was involved in the collision, were transhipped at the site of accident and brought to Bikaner by the Relief Train next morning.

19-5-1952: 23 Up—Cancelled.

19-5-52: 6 Down—Transhipped.

19-5-52: 5 Up—Transhipped.

19-5-52: 24 Down—Combined at Palana and transhipped at the site of accident.

20-5-1952: 6 Down—Combined at Palana and transhipped at the site of accident.

20-5-1952: 23 Up—Cancelled.

(iv) The Government Inspector of Railways, Bambay, commenced his