

(b) What steps do Government propose to take to meet the situation?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The effects of the taxes on Motor Vehicles and sales of petrol being levied in States at present are being studied by the Technical Committee of the Transport Advisory Council whose Report is expected to be submitted very shortly.

(b) The whole question of taxation of motor vehicles with reference to the recommendations of the Motor Vehicle Taxation Enquiry Committee will be discussed with representatives of States Governments at the meeting of the Transport Advisory Council in January 1953 and such action as is necessary and possible will be taken by Government after those discussions.

Shri V. B. Gandhh: Is it a fact that the Technical Committee was supposed to report in the early part of December?

Shri Alagesan: It will be submitting its report very soon and the report will be considered at a meeting of the Transport Advisory Council which is to be held in January. Before that they will be submitting their report.

Shri V. B. Gandhh: Will the Report of the Technical Committee be circulated to members?

Shri Alagesan: I do not think it is possible.

Shri V. B. Gandhh: Will Government please tell us what steps they propose to take to abolish the Inter-State taxes on motor vehicles?

Shri Alagesan: These and other things will be considered in that meeting.

Shri V. B. Gandhh: Is it the intention of Government to fix a ceiling on sales tax on petrol?

Shri Alagesan: It is to be discussed with the representatives of the various State Governments.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know whether Government are taking any steps to end the deadlock in certain States regarding inter-State movement of traffic?

Shri Alagesan: We are not aware of any deadlock.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: In spite of the fact that Assam produces petrol, is it a fact that the price of petrol in Assam is the highest in India?

Shri Alagesan: I have no information.

THE HIND FLYING CLUB, LUCKNOW

*1184. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether a plane belonging to the Hind Flying Club, Lucknow crashed between Terangna and Patna junction Railway Stations on or about 22nd November, 1952?

(b) How many passengers were there in the plane?

(c) How many died and how many were seriously injured?

(d) Has any inquiry been made and what are the causes of the accident?

(e) What arrangements were made to give first aid to the injured persons?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) One.

(c) None was killed but the pilot trainee was seriously injured.

(d) The accident is under investigation.

(e) They received first aid at the Terangna village dispensary before they were removed to Patna by train and admitted the same night into the General Hospital.

EVICTON OF LABOURERS

*1186. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 100 families and labourers from famine-stricken areas of Salem District, who have come in search of work, are living in hutments on the slopes of the embankment of the overbridge near New Delhi Railway Station;

(b) whether it is also a fact that they have been asked to vacate immediately;

(c) whether it is a fact that these families have no means to move to any other place; and

(d) whether Government will give them some space early and give financial assistance to build hutments before they are asked to vacate?

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

are about a hundred unauthorised huts erected on the slopes of the approach bank of the road overbridge near the New Delhi Railway Station. It is not known precisely wherefrom those concerned have come, but it appears that the majority of them hail from South India and most of the others are from Maharashtra.

(b) Yes, they have repeatedly been requested to vacate these slopes and to stop damaging them.

(c) No information on this point is available.

(d) The Railway can give no other space as their holdings in Delhi are not sufficient for their own needs. Financial assistance from Railway sources is also not possible.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Will the Government be pleased to give an assurance that they will not be vacated unless they are provided with alternative accommodation?

Shri Alagesan: It is not our concern. It is for the Delhi State Government.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: May I know how long these people are there?

Shri Alagesan: They have been staying there for a long time and off and on they have also been asked to vacate the site but they have been refusing to go and they have been there up till now.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: May I know whether any representation has been received by the Government from the people of Madhya Pradesh who live by this side?

Shri Alagesan: There are no people from Madhya Pradesh there.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Is it the intention of the Government to take up the question with the Delhi State Government in order to provide these people with alternative accommodation?

Shri Alagesan: No, Sir.

Shri Nambiar: Will the Ministry of Rehabilitation be approached before these people are vacated or forced out so that alternative accommodation can be provided?

Shri Alagesan: These people are not refugees from West or East Pakistan.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The Minister said it is not the intention to take up the matter with the Delhi State Government. May I know why?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There cannot be any argument.

DEATH OF PERSONS NEAR PATNA

*1187. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that four persons were knocked down and killed by a train near Patna on the 27th November 1952;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what were the circumstances in which this tragedy occurred; and

(c) whether all the persons died instantaneously or some of them succumbed to the injuries later on?

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

(b) It is understood from the Government Railway Police, Patna, that a woman, along with her three children, committed suicide due to some family trouble.

(c) Three died on the spot and the fourth who was sent to the General Hospital, Patna, succumbed to his injuries there.

Shri S. N. Das: Relating to the reply to part (b) of the question, may I know the circumstances under which they met their death whether they were knocked down or they were lying on the lines?

Shri Alagesan: I think they were knocked down.

Shri S. N. Das: From what facts did the police come to know that it was a suicide case?

Shri Alagesan: It was for the police to inform us and they informed us that it is a case of suicide.

Shri Chattopadhyaya: May I know whether they were knocked down due to family trouble?

Shri Alagesan: That was the information.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether Government has had any other source of getting information besides the police?

Shri Alagesan: Normal sources.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether it is a fact that these persons were travelling by the side of the Railway line and as the driver could not see them, this accident happened?

Shri Alagesan: We have no precise information on the point. We are told that they have been knocked down.