

(b) if so, the causes of the mishap?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan) : (a) Yes; at about 19:20 hours on 7-9-1955, a barge loaded with 17 wagons sank into the river Ganges near Semariaghat station on the Mokameh Ghat-Barauni Section of the North Eastern Railway.

(b) *Prima facie* the accident was caused by the ripping of the fore-peak at bottom plate of the barge by its own anchor and anchor chain resulting in the flooding of the main hold of the vessel.

Shri M. L. Agrawal : May I know why loaded wagons were put on the barge?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan : Because it was the normal practice.

Shri M. L. Agrawal : What were the contents of the wagons?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan : Sugar.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : What was the approximate loss or damage due to this mishap?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan : The barge was carrying 17 wagons while it sank. Sixteen of these wagons have been salvaged. One wagon and the barge are missing. The total damage is about Rs. 1,500 to the railways and Rs. 1,30,000 is the loss suffered by the public on account of sugar.

Shri M. L. Agrawal : Were there any persons on the barge? Was there loss of life?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan : There was no casualty.

Divya-Dasgaon Rail Link

*2070. Shri Kajrolkar : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far regarding the proposed Divya-Dasgaon line in Bombay State; and

(b) whether this line is included in the Second Five Year Plan?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan) : (a) Preliminary Engineering and Traffic surveys for this line have been completed.

(b) No decision has so far been arrived at in regard to the railway lines which would be taken up for construction during the Second Five Year Plan period.

Local Self-Government Ministers' Conference

*2072. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi : Will the Minister of Health be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1132 on the 28th April, 1955 and state:

(a) what other matters were discussed with the Planning Commission by the *ad hoc* Body constituted by the Local self-Government Ministers' Conference; and

(b) how far the Planning Commission have agreed to their proposals?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shri mati Chandrasekhar) : (a) The *ad hoc* Body constituted by the 2nd Conference of Local Self-Government Ministers discussed with the Planning Commission on the 18th August, 1954, the question of allocation of funds for the development programme of rural and urban water supply, drainage and sillage and slum clearance in the Five Year Plans.

(b) The Planning Commission have since agreed to provide Rs. 18.72 crores for urban and rural water supply and drainage programmes of States Governments during the First Five Year Plan.

About Slum Clearance Schemes, the Planning Commission agreed to give only loans and not subsidies.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi : What was the purpose of setting up this *ad hoc* body?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar : This *ad hoc* body was set up to assess the needs of the various local bodies in the States for loans and subsidies for important development programmes such as water supply, drainage and also to discuss with the Planning Commission the allocation of funds for the purpose in the First and Second Five Year Plans.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi : May I know the names of the members of this Committee?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar : The Union Health Minister was the Chairman and Shri Bhimsen Sachar, Chief Minister of Punjab, Shri Y. B. Chavan Minister for Local Self-Government, Bombay, Shri, Mohanlal Gautam, Minister for Local Self-Government, U.P...

Some Hon. Member : No. no.

Shrimati Chandrasekhar : Formerly he was the Minister for Local Self-Government. This was in 1954.