

BOMBAY-CALCUTTA MAIL ACCIDENT

S. N. Q. No. 15. Shri Raghunath Singh : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bombay-Calcutta Mail capsized while running on the morning of 24th April, 1956 ;

(b) the nature and extent of the casualties to passengers and the railway employees in the train ; and

(c) whether any specific safe guards and precautions were taken to prevent a recurrence, after the accident of the same train at the same place on 24th January, 1956 ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan) : (a) At about 4.17 hours on 24-4-1956, while No. 41 Down/Bombay-Calcutta Mail was running between Malkapur and Biswa Bridge stations on the Bhusawal-Nagpur double line section of the Central Railway, the engine and six coaches immediately behind it derailed at mile 308/18-21. The remaining rear six coaches remained on the rails.

(b) Killed—Nil.

Injured		
Grievous	. 2 }	All
Minor	. 1 }	Pass-
Trivial	. 38 }	engers.

No Railway employee was killed or injured.

(c) The following precautionary measures were taken :

(i) Introduction of double frequency patrolling on Bhusawal-Badnera Section from 24-1-56 to 28-1-56 (both days inclusive).

(ii) Double frequency patrolling on Malkapur-Biswa Bridge Section and ordinary monsoon patrolling on the other portions of the Bhusawal-Badnera Section from 29-1-56 to 13-2-56 (both days inclusive).

(iii) Ordinary monsoon patrolling on the entire Bhusawal-Badnera Section from 14-2-56 to 29-2-56.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या इसका कारण में जान सकता हूँ कि इतने प्रीकाशन (उपाय) लेने के बाद भी इतने ऐक्सिडेंट्स (दुर्घटनाएँ) क्यों होते हैं ?

Shri Alagesan : The Government Inspector of Railways who conducted the statutory enquiry into the accident submitted a preliminary report and his provisional conclusion as to the cause of the derailment is that it was due to the removal, by some person or persons unknown, of three pairs of fishplates and all steel keys from two consecutive left-hand rails and the shifting of one of these rails by a few inches towards the right. That is his conclusion. It is a pity that on the self-same site an accident occurred some months back. It was also due to—or suspected to be—sabotage.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : इसका क्या कारण है कि उसी स्थान पर, उसी दिन और उसी प्रकार के वाक्यात होते हैं ? क्योंकि एक दो महीने पहले उसी स्थान पर और उसी २४ तारीख को तथा उसी ट्रेन में ऐसा ऐक्सिडेंट (दुर्घटना) हुआ था ।

Mr. Speaker : He just now answered that it is unfortunate that the same thing should have happened in the same site sometime earlier also, and that it was due to sabotage. Shrimati Jayashri. I saw, wanted to ask a question.

Shrimati Jayashri : I am satisfied with the reply that has been given. I only wanted to ask whether any enquiry has been made.

Shri Alagesan : An enquiry has been made.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : The hon. Minister said that the patrolling parties and the frequency of patrolling have been increased. I want to know how many hours before this accident occurred did the patrolling parties pass through that track ?

Shri Alagesan : The hon. Member has not followed when I was reading the reply. Patrolling that was undertaken soon after the first accident was discontinued after a month. This accident occurred last month.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : I want to know whether patrolling is being continued and if so, how many hours before this accident occurred did the patrolling party pass through that track ?

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member wants to know how many hours before the time of the accident on the date on which it occurred did the patrolling take place.

Shri Alagesan : The first accident took place sometime in January. Soon after that accident, for a month or so the patrolling was continued. After that, it was discontinued. This accident occurred last month.

Shri Kamath : Has the Minister's attention been drawn to certain Press reports, in the Nagpur Press particularly, that there are bitter quarrels among the local railway employees and that one group of railway employees in order to spite the other, might have perpetrated this sabotage ?

Shri Alagesan : We do not have any other material than what we have got as a result of the enquiry.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao : May I know what have been the findings of the Inspector of Railways who enquired into the accident in January ?

Shri Alagesan : I require notice of that question.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

HEALTH LABORATORIES

*1865. **Shri M. Islamuddin :** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 862 on 21st December, 1955 and state whether the details of the scheme for the establishment of one principal laboratory at the headquarters of each State Government have been finalised ?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur) : The scheme has not yet been finalised.

AIRLINES CORPORATION

*1867. **Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani :** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state :

(a) the rules and procedure adopted for recruitment and appointment of staff for the Airlines Corporation ;

(b) whether it is a fact that recently some new appointments have been made in the higher grade without even advertising the posts ;

(c) if so, the reason therefor ; and

(d) whether Government would consider the proposal to appoint a Committee or Board to review all the fresh appointments made after the nationalisation of the Air Services ?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram) : (a) The Indian Airlines Corporation have been asked to frame recruitment rules and procedures. Pending the framing of such rules, the Corporation have set up Departmental Recruitment Boards to ensure proper selection of candidates.

(b) and (c). Appointments to higher grades are made as and when required after due publicity or by taking Government servants on deputation. The approval of the Government is necessary before appointments to posts carrying a salary of Rs. 1,000 and above per month could be made.

(d) It is not proposed to review the appointments made after the nationalisation of the Air Services.

COST ACCOUNTING IN POST AND TELEGRAPH WORKSHOPS

*1868. **Shri U. M. Trivedi :** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state :

(a) whether cost accounting has been introduced in the Posts and Telegraphs workshops ;

(b) if so, where ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram) : (a) The system of cost accounting already exists in P. & T. Workshops, but steps are being taken to modernise the same.