

(b) if so, whether Government have enquired into the accident;

(c) whether any compensation has been paid to the families of the deceased and the injured; and

(d) what was the total amount of loss due to this accident?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) On 18th December 1958 at about 05.45 hours while a load of nine wagons was being backed to be placed on line No. 3 in the Grass Yard at Mahalaxmi station on the Western Railway it entered line No. 9 and collided with a load of fifteen wagons already placed on that line. As a result of the impact, three wagons which were near the 'Dead end', smashed the Dead end, overshot and derailed. Four persons who were sitting beyond the 'Dead end' sustained grievous injuries. One of them died on the spot while another on the way to Hospital.

(b) Yes.

(c) Pending consideration of the Claims received an *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 150 to each of the two injured has been made and a similar payment of Rs. 350 to the dependents of each of the two deceased is under consideration.

(d) Rs. 900 only to the Railway property.

बालोमी रेलवे की डलान पर दुर्घटना

*५७८. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि .

(क) क्या यह सच है कि २६ दिसम्बर, १९५८ को प्रातः सात बजे देवरिया से २२ मील दूर पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे के लार रोड और मलीमपुर स्टेशनों के बीच के गेन्वे लंबल क्रॉसिंग पर एक रेलवे मालगाड़ी के इंजन और भागलपुर से देवरिया जाने वाली एक बस की धापम में टक्कर हो जाने से बस के पांच यात्री मर गये और दर्जनों अन्य व्यक्तियों को चोटें आईं; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो दुर्घटना का ब्यौरा क्या क्या है ?

रेलवे उपमंत्री (श्री सी० वें० रामस्वामी) :

(क) और (ख). २६-१२-५८ को सुबह लगभग ७ बजे वर १५ मिनट कर इंजन नं० ४२ से ८२ आई० जी० अपने कूवान के साथ एक पबलिक बस से टकरा गया। टक्कर लार रोड मलीमपुर स्टेशनों के बीच मील ११।३ बी० ए० पर बने हुए सम-पार (level crossing) पर हुई जिस पर कोई चौकीदार नहीं रहता। यह सम-पार सड़क के रास्ते देवरिया से लगभग २३ मील के फासले पर है। टक्कर की वजह से बस के ५ मुसाफिर वहीं मर गये और १५ को चोटें प्रायीं, जिन में से २ बाद में मर गये।

Conversion of Metre Gauge Line

*579. Shri Assar: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the metre gauge line from Poona to Miraj on Southern Railway was sanctioned to be converted into broad gauge line; and

(b) if so, when the work of conversion will begin?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) No, Sir. Only a reconnaissance engineering and traffic survey was sanctioned in Jan. 1957 which have since been completed but the reports are still awaited.

(b) Does not arise at this stage.

Bombay-Kanya Kumari Road

*580. { Shri V. Eacharan:
Shri Jinachandran:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of the Bombay-Kanya Kumari Road has been completed; and

(b) if not, where it is held up and why?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b) Presumably the Members are referring to the West Coast Road. This is a large project estimated to cost nearly Rs 11 crores, and expected to be completed by the end of the Third Five Year Plan.

Rail Link with Tripura

*582. { Shri D. C. Sharma.
Shri Raghunath Singh.
Sardar A. S. Saigal:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 159 on the 12th August, 1958 and state the latest position with regard to the construction of rail link between Tripura and the rest of India?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): Attention of the hon. Members is invited to para 27 of the Railway Minister's Budget speech, wherein it has been mentioned that the possibility of construction of the line Patharkandi-Kharamanagai is under active consideration.

Storage of Foodgrains

*584. Shri Ram Krishan: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that great damage is done to foodgrains on account of non-availability of storage facilities, and

(b) if so, the nature of steps taken or proposed to be taken for better storage of foodgrains?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Information is not available in respect of private stocks. In Central Government godowns the damage is negligible in view of the Scientific methods adopted for storage and preservation.

(b) To improve storage of private stocks, a Foodgrains Storage Advisory Committee has been constituted to study the problems. A Grain Storage Training and Research Institute at Hapur is being set up to train official and non-official personnel in better methods of storage.

Procurement of Rice and Paddy

*587. Shri L. Achaw Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether co-operatives have been entrusted with the work of procuring rice and paddy in all the States where such procurement is going on, and

(b) whether the State Bank of India has advanced any loans to such co-operatives for procurement?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) In those States where procurement is being made through purchasing agents, the co-operatives, if available, have also been entrusted with the work of procuring rice.

(b) Loans have been advanced in certain cases by the State Bank either direct or through the State Co-operative Bank. In other cases, loans are advanced by the State Government or the State Co-operative Bank.

Derailement of Goods Trains

*590. Shri Mohammed Imam: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of derailments of goods trains have taken place on the Bangalore-Poona Section of the Southern Railway during 1958-59, and

(b) if so, the causes of these derailments?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes