

were run over and killed by trains in the Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway in the past twenty hours preceding the 19th March, 1960?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): Not seven but three persons viz. one male and two females were run over and killed by three different trains at different places in Sealdah Division while they were trying to cross the railway track in the face of approaching trains.

Shri Raghunath Singh: The hon. Minister has said that three persons were killed. May I know how many persons were injured, and may I also know the reason why in one day so many accidents have taken place?

Mr. Speaker: All in the same train?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: There were three different trains at different places and accidents were outside the station yard, in block sections. Further, in broad daylight if somebody decides to be run over by a train what can we do?

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know whether such accidents are happening there daily and whether it is not a fact that three or four people are killed by these accidents daily?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: No, Sir. They are not happening daily.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know whether these accidents are due to the fact that between Barasat and Dum Dum there is no double track, with the result that outside the yard, when crossing takes place, there is shunting, and that is why these people are run over?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: These are all passenger trains; there is no shunting at all.

श्रीमती सहोदरा बाई राय : अध्यक्ष महोदय

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप भी क्या कलकत्ता से आती हैं ? अच्छा आप भी सूख लीजिये ।

श्रीमती सहोदरा बाई राय : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि मियालदह स्टेशन पर १९ मार्च को जो महिलायें दब कर मर गई थीं उनके बाल-बच्चों को क्या कोई धनराशि दी गई है और दी गई है तो कितनी दी गई है ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : इसमें तो रेलवे का कसूर नहीं है, इसलिये कोई धनराशि नहीं देंगे ।

श्रीमती सहोदरा बाई राय : कैसे कसूर नहीं है ? जिन महिलाओं की जानें चली गई हैं, उनके जो बाल बच्चे हैं, वे कहां से खायेंगे ? आपको उन्हें कुछ देना है या नहीं देना है ?

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

World Agriculture Fair

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- Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
 - Shri Bhakt Darshan:
 - Shri Hem Barua:
 - Shri P. K. Deo:
 - Shri Pangarkar:
 - Shri Madhusudan Rao:
 - Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
 - Shri Kalika Singh:
 - Shri Hem Raj:
 - Shri B. K. *Chakravarti*
 - Shri Karni Singhji:
 - Shri Manabendra Shukh:
 - Shri Tangamani:
 - Shri Supakar:
 - Shri Braj Raj Singh:
 - Kumari M. Vedakumari:
 - Shrimati Minmata:
 - Shri Dinesh Singh:
 - Shri Ramji Verma:
 - Shri Goray:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the total expenses incurred on the World Agriculture Fair in Delhi;

(b) the income therefrom;

(c) the total number of visitors; and

(d) what steps are being taken to

utilize the information gained from different pavilions of foreign countries?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). According to the information furnished by the Secretary, World Agriculture Fair, (a) the total expenditure is estimated to be about Rs. 40 lakhs. As bills for expenditure are still being received, it is difficult to give the exact figure of expenditure just now and (b) the income so far received is about Rs. 55 lakhs. A further sum of about Rs. 2½ lakhs is still due.

In accordance with an assurance given by Minister for Food and Agriculture in Lok Sabha on the 17th March, 1960, a copy of the accounts will be placed on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

(c) The total number of visitors was over 28 lakhs according to information received from Secretary, World Agriculture Fair.

(d) Officers were deputed by the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture as well as by State Governments to study the exhibits in the various pavilions and establish contacts with the officers in charge of the pavilions to secure more details if necessary, with a view to utilising the information gained for development of Indian agriculture.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: I find from the statement that certain Central and State officers were deputed to secure more details. I want to know whether the details were secured and whether they have been consolidated in the form of some information bulletin which could be given in the shape of a booklet or something like that for circulation?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is under contemplation. It is proposed by the Samaj to give a whole account of it,

from the beginning to the end. With respect to the statement, I would like to add one or two more aspects. The income was asked for, I might say that we have not included the Government grant of Rs. 5 lakhs which the Bharat Krishak Samaj received. Secondly, the expenditure is given as Rs. 40 lakhs. It might be exceeded by a lakh of rupees or so. It does not include any payment of rent to Government.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: May I know by what time this information bulletin or booklet that is being intended to be prepared would be ready?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The Bharat Krishak Samaj is thinking of making it a very fine volume, because this was history's first agriculture exhibition. I have discovered that 110 years ago, when the first great exhibition in London was held, very similar difficulties which we had to face were faced there also. So, we want to give a comparative picture of what we faced and what we did.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: Could it be given in six months at least?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Not more than six months.

Shri Tangamani: Out of the Rs. 55 lakhs which is the income from the fair, may I know how much was the collection from the visitors who visited the fair?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: About Rs. 5,90,000.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: May I know what are the major heads of expenditure and the major heads of income, and may I know whether the Bharat Krishak Samaj was given any subvention or aid from the Government and, if so, what is the amount?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The total Government assistance received was Rs. 5 lakhs. We are going to place the accounts on the Table. But I am prepared to give a rough idea. About the rents we charged, I think a large

portion was paid by the foreign Governments. It came to nearly Rs. 42 lakhs. The gate collections were Rs. 5,89,000 odd. The entertainment brought us Rs. 1,21,000. Publicity brought us Rs. 41,000. Electricity brought us Rs. 5 lakhs and water, Rs. 28,000. Telephones fetched Rs. 27,000.

I am prepared to give the expenditure figures also. First of all, the expenditure item, in the way of establishments which were responsible for putting up the fair, comes to about Rs. 5½ lakhs. Postage, printing, etc., came to Rs. 1,15,000. Roads and buildings came to about Rs. 4,61,000. All these figures are within the revised budget that we had framed, at which the Extension Commissioner as well as the Joint Secretary (Finance) who works in my Ministry were also present.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has given the details. Are we going into the detailed accounts here? What is it that hon. Members want?

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the large sums of money involved in this and in view of the fact that the Government also have made available to the fair funds to the tune of Rs. 5 lakhs, may I know whether the accounts are going to be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor-General and, if not, why not?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The condition which has been laid down by the Government is that we should keep proper accounts of the fair and that the accounts should be open to scrutiny by the Government. The expenditure of Rs. 5 lakhs has already been audited twice by Government auditors. An expenditure of Rs. 2 lakhs was first audited and then an expenditure of Rs. 3 lakhs was audited. We are getting the whole expenditure and income audited by certified auditors and all that will be placed before the Government.

Shri C. D. Pande: May I know if the Minister can give any estimate of the value of the assets left by the participating countries and whether these assets will go to the Government or to the Samaj?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Every asset and everything left behind will not go to the Bharat Krishak Samaj. They will only go to the Government. I have taken possession of certain cattle and certain pavilions on behalf of the Government and not on behalf of the Krishak Samaj. Unless the Government insists on certain participants levelling down the pavilions and destroying them, I think the value of these assets should not in any case be less than half a crore of rupees.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : इस विवरण में बताया गया है कि २८ लाख से अधिक व्यक्तियों ने इस प्रदर्शनी को देखा। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन २८ लाख व्यक्तियों में से कितने खेती करने वाले किसान थे और कितने तमाशाबीन थे ?

डा० पं० शा० देशमुख : मैं समझता हूँ कि इसमें से कम भ्रज कम प्राधे होंगे। मेरा यह दावा है कि दिल्ली के शहर में इसके पेश-तर इतनी संख्या में किसान कभी नहीं प्राये थे।

Shri N. R. Muniswamy: May I know whether it is a fact that the Krishak Samaj paid about Rs. 30 lakhs as rent to the Government for this fair?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That is the demand the Government has made. As we see, it is impossible for the Samaj to pay so much. The balance is much smaller than that, and we will negotiate with Government on this matter. If anything is left with the Bharat Krishak Samaj, they intend to put up a small agricultural museum, a hostel, a guest-house for farmers etc.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: Sir, on a point of order.

Shri Sampath: May I know if there is any feasibility of introducing into Indian farming some of the valuable machines exhibited at the various pavilions of foreign countries, such as, for instance, the transplanting machine exhibited in the Chinese pavilion?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir. Very serious consideration is being given to all these things which would be of use to the Indian farmers. We are doing our best to afford these facilities to our farmers in due course.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Sir, on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: I cannot allow two points of order. Shri Sadhan Gupta.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: Is the hon. Minister answering for the Government or for the Krishak Samaj? He said that "we are negotiating with Government" and so on.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I admit there is likely to be a little confusion because I have a dual capacity on this matter. I am replying to the questions as Minister and not as one representing the Krishak Samaj.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: The other day, while answering questions about the World Agriculture Fair, the Minister of Food and Agriculture said that they had refused the Bharat Krishak Samaj the request not to charge the rent of Rs. 30 lakhs. The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply also said so. Now, the Minister says that they are negotiating with the Government. The other day, the Minister told us that they have refused permission to the request that the rent should not be paid. May I know what is the latest position?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No organisation can refuse to pay to the Government of India. What was probably meant was that the Bharat Krishak Samaj wanted to apply, submit and pray that this rent need not be charged, as the Samaj would utilise the funds for the benefit of the farmer.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to suggest that whenever an hon. Minister combines in himself two positions, one directly responsible to this House and the other in any other capacity, he must entrust the matter of answering the question to another Minister. He cannot be a judge on his own case, saying, "I am requesting the Government"; it means "requesting myself" to decide this matter. I thought the Food Minister or some other Minister would answer this question. If any further elucidation is necessary, I have no objection if the Public Accounts Committee will look into this matter. It is a public affair. The hon. Minister will kindly place all the material before the Public Accounts Committee as soon as possible and it will send a report to this House.

Of course, this has been a very good fair. I do not think any hon. Member wants to say anything against the manner in which the fair was conducted.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: Therefore, it is only a question of adjustment from one head to another head. The Minister will do so in future. I do not want to prevent Ministers from being associated with other bodies, but when they are so associated, let them dissociate themselves on the floor of the House and let another Minister answer for them.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have replied to the question lest some hon. Member might think that I was shirking to reply.

Shri Joachim Alva: There is one aspect arising out of your direction. When a Minister is in possession of all the facts of the case, does he not owe it to the House that he should explain the facts of the case to the House instead of another Minister answering it?

Mr. Speaker: It is not so. If he explains, hon. Members themselves will say he is interested in the Bharat Krishak Samaj and so on, in spite of his best efforts to explain. Therefore

whenever another Minister takes charge, wherever the House is not satisfied, the other Minister who is actually in charge, will also explain. There is no harm in doing so. The main responsibility will be upon another Minister.

Shri P. K. Deo: May I know what will happen to the various machinery that came from the different countries to the Fair? If they are not going back, may I know whether they will be the property of the Government of India or how will they be disposed of?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Some of the participants are anxious to dispose of their machinery here as it is very costly to take them back. But they have to get the permission of the Central Board of Revenue to do that; the Fair Committee is not concerned with it.

Shri Joachim Alva: Is it not true that the World Agricultural Fair has been a spectacular and triumphant success and perhaps the only mistake Government committed was, instead of getting 20,000 peasants, they should have brought 2 lakhs of peasants as visitors to the Fair?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is expressing an opinion.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: May I know whether Government is aware that while making recruitment to look after the World Agricultural Fair, according to the Government policy, a particular percentage had not been reserved for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes? I hear that there were several applications from the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and they were not appointed.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am afraid I will have to speak as the President of the World Fair. I made special efforts as far as I could; it may be that the hon. Member is not satisfied with the numbers employed. But I did direct my Secretary to recruit as many persons from the scheduled castes as possible.

An Hon. Member: But how many?

Mr. Speaker: We do not go into such details.

Bombay-Baghdad Air Service

*1224. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Iraqi Government have asked the Indian Government for technical assistance to set up a plant for the production of aircrafts in Iraq;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a request was made by the Iraqi Government to start a new air-service from Baghdad to Bombay; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Iraqi airways are at present operating a weekly service from Baghdad to Delhi. A proposal was received from the Iraqi authorities for a second service to be operated by Iraqi Airways to India on the route Baghdad, Bahrein, Karachi and Bombay. This request is under examination.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether there was any informal talk between officials of the Government of India and of the Government of Iraq on the question of setting up an aircraft construction plant at Iraq?

Shri Mohiuddin: There was no talk about the manufacture of aircraft.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether in regard to the proposal for the Bombay-Baghdad service, it is necessary to have a calling at Karachi and if so, whether the permission of the Pakistan Government has been secured?

Shri Mohiuddin: It is not for us to secure permission. It is for us to consider whether we think it desirable that a second service should be introduced on such and such route in India.