

greatest experience, it would have caused us a net saving of about Rs. 8 crores (total savings) spread over ten years?

**Shri A. K. Sen:** The total contract itself for the supply of equipment is only for Rs. 4 crores.

**Shri U. M. Trivedi:** The answer that was given by the . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** When the total contract is for Rs. 4 crores, how could there be a saving of Rs. 8 crores?

**Shri U. M. Trivedi:** There is the recurring expenditure to be incurred, and that is why I said that it would have caused a total saving of Rs. 8 crores over ten years.

**Mr. Speaker:** Let us proceed now.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Communication System in Port Blair

\*399. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs be pleased to state the major steps recently taken towards improving the communication facilities in Port Blair for linking it with the rest of the country?

**The Deputy Minister in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs (Shri Bhagavati):** So far as Telecommunication facilities are concerned, Wireless telegraph facilities between Calcutta-Port Blair and Madras-Port Blair were available since long. Radio telephone service between Calcutta and Port Blair has been established since November, 1962. Steps are also being taken to open Radio Teleprinter circuit between Calcutta and Port Blair.

All available sea and air services are being utilised for the carriage of mails between Port Blair and the rest of the country.

##### Explosion of a Wagon

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 { **Shri Indrajit Gupta:**  
**Shri P. K. Ghosh:**  
**Shri Yashpal Singh:**  
**Shri Kapur Singh:**  
 \*404. { **Shri Kachhavaia:**  
**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:**  
**Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:**  
**Shri D. D. Mantri:**  
**Shri S. N. Chaturvedi:**  
**Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether a wagon loaded with explosives exploded at Dehra Dun railway station on the 7th January 1964, resulting in several casualties;

(b) whether an inquiry has been held into the circumstances of the disaster; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) Yes Sir. Four casual labourers employed departmentally received serious burns and one casual labourer sustained severe shock. Three out of the former, subsequently died in the hospital.

(b) (and (c)). A Committee of Enquiry consisting of Railway Officers of Administrative Grade and the Inspector of Explosives, Agra, enquired into the accident. The Committee had submitted a report to the Northern Railway. The finding of the Committee is that the explosion was caused by the ignition of gun powder, fine, contained in two boxes, which were in the wagon, but the exact cause of ignition could not be established.

##### Earthquake Observatory at Bhuj

{ **Shri B. P. Yadava:**  
 \*405. { **Shri Dhaon:**  
**Shri Bishanchander Seth:**

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to establish one