

Cause	Number of accidents
(v) A timber merchant cutting a tree by the side of the railway line without taking precautions to see that it did not fall on a running train.	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>

The approximate cost of damage to engines, rolling stock and permanent way involved in these accidents amounted to Rs. 2,32,000.

(c) In accordance with Section 82B to J of the Indian Railways Act, 1890, and the Rules made thereunder, Claims Commissioners are appointed to enquire into and determine claims for compensation arising out of accidents to trains carrying passengers and their decisions are final, except that the aggrieved claimants can appeal to the High Court. In the case of major accidents Claims Commissioners are specially appointed while in the case of minor accidents the local judicial or magisterial officers act as *ex-officio* Claims Commissioners to deal with claims arising out of such accidents within their respective jurisdiction. A Claims Commissioner has been appointed solely in connection with the first mentioned accident under part (a) above, as it is a major accident. The Claims Commissioner has so far decreed and paid compensation to the extent of about Rs. 56,000/- in respect of this accident. The other accidents are minor ones.

#### T.B. AMONG EMPLOYEES OF CALCUTTA PORT COMMISSIONERS

217. **Shri Tushar Chatterjee:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether the Government of India are aware that incidence of T.B. has been increasing among the employees of the Calcutta Port Commissioners?

(b) What is the number of T.B. cases that came to the knowledge of the Port Commissioners, year by year, during the past five years?

(c) Is it a fact that in all such cases the staff contacted T.B. after entering the Commissioners' service and that staff doing out-door and different turns of duty including night duty are principally the victims of the disease?

(d) What arrangements have the Port Commissioners made for proper treatment of those of their staff who are suffering from T.B.?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). A record of T.B. cases among

their employees is being maintained by the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta from May 1949 onwards. A statement showing the number of employees suffering from T.B. in each year *vis-a-vis* the total number of employees is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) As all the employees of the Port Commissioners are required to produce at the time of their appointment a certificate of physical fitness from the Commissioners' Chief Medical Officer, it can only be presumed that the employees concerned contracted T.B. after entering the Port service. The incidence of the disease is, however, not confined only to staff doing outdoor or shift duties, but also extends to the other employees on permanent day duty. Out of the 157 employees suffering from T.B. in 1951, only 86 were on shift duty.

(d) The Calcutta Port Commissioners maintain at their cost 15 beds in the Jadabpur and 4 beds in the Kanchrapara T.B. Hospitals for their employees. A recurring expenditure of Rs. 35,000/- *per annum* is incurred by them on this account in addition to an initial expenditure of Rs. 7,000/-. The Commissioners also bear the cost of expensive drugs like streptomycin and P.A.S. in all cases where their employees are victims of T.B. and render financial assistance from their Welfare Fund to such employees in cases of hardship.

#### STATEMENT

The number of T.B. Cases among the Calcutta Port Commissioners employees during the period May 1949 to October 1952.

Year	No. of employees suffering from T. B.	Total number of employees.
1949 (May to December—eight months).	27	28,244
1950	115	28,058
1951	157	28,186
1952 (January to October—ten months).	158	28,382

#### FOOD GIFTS

218. **Shri Babakrishnan:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of food gifts sent by foreign countries to India in the year 1952 up to 31st October;

(b) the quantity of food gifts sent by each Government; and

(b) As already stated above the obtained the consent of the Government of India before they sent their food gifts?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) and (b). Attention is invited to the Prime Minister's reply to starred question No. 36 on the 5th November, 1952.

(c) There is an Agreement between the Government of India, and the Government of U.S.A. for relief supplies. In regard to gifts outside this Agreement, and gifts from other countries, there is no need for the approval of the Government of India, as long as the gifts are consigned either to the Government, or to recognised Relief Organisations.

#### EXTERMINATION OF LOCUST SWARMS IN RAJASTHAN

**219. Shri Karni Singhji:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred by the Central Anti-locust Organisation on the recent operations for the extermination of locust swarms infesting the Barmer, Jaisalmer and Bikaner Districts of Rajasthan; and

(b) how much damage to crops in these districts is estimated?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) Approximately Rs. 68,000 in Barmer District, Rs. 1,57,000 in Jaisalmer District, and Rs. 1,52,000 in Bikaner District.

(b) Preliminary reports indicate that only slight damage was done to late Kharif and newly sown Rabi crops during September and October 1952. Actual figures of the damage have not yet been collected.

#### SHORTAGE OF WAGONS

**220. Shri Basappa:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the present numbers of broad gauge and metre gauge wagons in Indian Railways;

(b) the number of new goods wagons placed on the tracks in the year 1951-52; and

(c) whether any representations have been received from the merchants of Mysore State regarding shortage of wagons and if so, what action has been taken?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) Total stock owned by Broad and Metre Gauge Indian Railways on 30th September 1952 was equivalent to 161,160

and 63,405 four-wheeler units respectively.

(b) An equivalent of 2,254 Broad Gauge and 2,359 Metre Gauge four-wheeler units.

(c) Yes, representations from some coconut and copra merchants of Mysore State have been received. This traffic has to share the availability of wagons along with the other traffic consistent with the Preferential Traffic Schedule, i.e., traffic entitled to any preferential treatment under Section 27-A of the Indian Railways Act, 1890. Supply of wagons for this traffic during the period June to October, 1952 has been appreciably better than that during the corresponding period of the previous year. Further, for the next few years it is expected that there will be an annual increase in the overall wagon holdings, both Broad and Metre Gauge, to the extent of 3,000 wagons and this should ease the position for the movement of traffic generally.

#### AIR LINE COMPANIES

**221. Shri Punnose:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of air-line companies in India;

(b) their total authorised, subscribed and paid up capital and their reserve and depreciation funds as on 30th March, 1952;

(c) whether there is any foreign participation in the capital of these companies; if so, in which and to what extent; and

(d) whether there is any State participation in the capital of these companies, if so, in which and to what extent?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Fourteen companies. I lay on the Table a statement showing their names. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 49].

(b) Figures of authorised, subscribed and paid-up capital and the reserve and depreciation funds of companies operating scheduled services as disclosed by their latest available balance sheets, namely of 1951, are given in the statement. Similar figures in respect of companies engaged on only non-scheduled operations are not available. Figures as on 30th March 1952 are not available.

(c) There is none, so far as I am aware. But I am having the exact position checked up.