

major ports while the minor ports are under the control of State Governments.

LOCOMOTIVES

464. Shri Bell Ram Das: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many Metre Gauge Locomotives were purchased during 1952-53 and are being purchased in 1953-54?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Number of Metre Gauge Locomotives ordered during:

| | |
|---------|--------|
| 1952-53 | ... 70 |
| 1953-54 | 250 |

FIRE ACCIDENTS

465. Shri Vallatharas: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fire accidents on the Indian Railways in the years 1952 and 1953;

(b) the safeguards adopted by Government to prevent such accidents in future; and

(c) the number of persons who died or were injured in accidents on the Indian Railways in the years 1952 and 1953?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The number of serious accidents, i.e., accidents by fire to trains carrying passengers attended with loss of human life and/or grievous hurt and/or damage to Railway property to the value of approximately Rs. 20,000 or over in each, was two each in 1952 and 1953 (up to date).

(b) The safeguards adopted include educating the travelling public about the serious consequence of—

- (i) the carriage of inflammable substances such as petrol, cinema films etc. as luggage in passenger compartments, and
- (ii) discarding lighted match sticks or burning cigarette or

bidi stumps inside the compartments,

by displaying warning notices in English and regional languages, exhibiting pictorial posters, etc. prominently in selected places at important stations and in train compartments, and by wide publicity through news papers and Railway Time Tables;

Rendering fireproof the material used in the vestibules and coaches, especially in upper class compartments;

Provision of ash trays in upper class compartments;

Eliminating or reducing as much as possible the use of inflammable material used in the construction of some Rail Cars;

Provision of spark arrestors in passenger train engines;

Improving the design of roof construction of certain types of multiple unit stock to provide greater immunity from the effects of fire due to electrical faults etc.;

Instructions to staff not to smoke in the vicinity or inside luggage vans when loading or unloading parcels;

Provision of adequate number of Fire Extinguishers in trains and their proper maintenance and so on.

(c) The number killed and injured in the accidents referred to in the reply to part (a) was as follows:

| | Killed | Injured |
|-------------------|--------|---------|
| 1952 | 1 | 15 |
| 1953 (up to date) | 5 | 16 |

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' UNIONS

466. Shri Vallatharas: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the number of the Central Government employees' Unions which have been granted the Trade Union status so far?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): It is presumed the hon. Member requires information regarding