

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (c). A statement is attached. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 11].

(b) Yes, Sir.

Accidents in Mines

198. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1700 on the 30th March, 1955 and state:

(a) the number of accidents occurred in the coal mines during the period from January to October, 1955; and

(b) the number of workers involved therein?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). The information is available for the period from January, 1955 to September, 1955, and is given below:—

Number of accidents.	Number of fatal accidents.	Number of Serious accidents.	Number of persons killed.	Number of persons injured.
168	1920	259	1988	

Indian Cargo Vessels

199. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the present strength of the Indian cargo vessels and the routes on which they ply?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The Indian Cargo fleet consists of 117 ships of a GRT of 473,543. They are employed in the following trades:—

Trade	No. of ships	GRT.
I Coastal	84	252,583
II Overseas		
(a) India/UK/Continent	24	168,806
(b) India/Persian Gulf	3	9,861
(c) India/Australia	2	14,433
(d) India/Japan/Far East	2	10,759
(e) India/Singapore	1	8,580
(f) India/East Africa	1	8,521
	117	473,543

The above position is as on the 31st October 1955.

Railway Accidents

200. { Shri R. N. Singh;
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents that took place during the period from the 1st January to the 30th September, 1955;

(b) how do these figures compare with the corresponding period of the last year;

(c) whether Government have received enquiry reports in respect of all the accidents;

(d) in how many cases the human element and failure of mechanical equipment were responsible for these accidents; and

(e) the steps, if any, taken to remove the causes of the accidents?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) 2600 train accidents.

(b) The figure of train accidents during the year 1955 shows a decline as compared to the figure for the corresponding period of the last year, which was 2684.

(c) Yes; except in 122 cases.

(d) Failure of human element.

(i) Railway staff 993

(ii) Other than Railway Staff 88

TOTAL 1081

Failure of Mechanical Equipment 986

(e) Among the measures generally taken are:—

Effective disciplinary action against railway staff held responsible for accident.

Education of staff in the safety rules through periodicals, circular letters etc.

Tightening up of supervision and control.

Frequent warnings to staff to remain vigilant and cautious and making them more safety minded.

Provision of refresher courses at training schools at regular intervals.

Systematic examination and intensive inspection of Permanent Way and rolling stock etc.