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Air Service to Madural

687. Shri Narayanasamy: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any steps for restoring the air services to Madurai; and

(b) if so, when?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lai Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). The Indian Airlines Corporation will review their route pattern after the introduction of Viscounts on certain trunk routes, and the question of an air service to Madurai will also be considered at that time. An enquiry has been made from the Chief Minister, Madras whether the State Government can help in establishing such connection.

Ex- Bikaner Raliway Staff

688. Shri Karni Singhji: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred question No. 277 on the 28th May, 1957 regarding Ex-Bikaner Railway Staff and state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision; and (b) if not, when a decision is expected to be taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawas Khan): (a) Not yet.

(b) The union have only very recently furnished their views on the subject. A further meeting with the union to finalise the issue is being held and a decision will be taken shortly.

Rallway Accidents

689. Shri D. C. Sharma: Shri Tangamani: Shri Raghunath Singh: Shri D. P. Singh:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of serious railway accidents which occurred from the 1st April, 195, to the end of June, 1957;
- (b) the total number of persons killed and injured; and
- (c) the compensation, if any, paid so far?

The Deputy Minister of Railways Shri Shahnawas Khan): (a) Two, viz.

- (1) Collision between No. B. 12 Up and No. M. 22 Up Suburban Local trains between Wadala Road and Sewri. Stations of the Central Railway of 2-6-57.
- (ii) Head-on collision between No. 3 Down Pathankot Express and No. W. 20 Up Goods train at Chata Station on Central Railway on 22-6-57. Definition

A serious accident is an accident to a train 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.