

the Durand Cup Tournament from Delhi;

(b) whether the Station Master of that station has submitted any report in this connection; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken in this respect?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) There was an unfortunate incident at Sahibganj on January 1, 1958. The trouble originated on 14 Dn. while the train stopped at Colgong. A college student of Sahibganj and a member of the Mohan Bagan Football Team had an altercation at a Tea Stall there in which the college student got hurt. On this when the train reached Sahibganj the students demand that the Guard should open the door of the 1st Class compartment occupied by the Mohan Bagan Football Team so that they might take their revenge on them and said they would not let the train depart. The Station Master and Government Railway Police intervened and nothing serious took place there and the train left with vacuum brakes disconnected.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Officer in charge Government Railway Police, who was summoned by the Station Master, Sahibganj on the spot, took statements of both the parties, namely, Shri Chitradhar Jha, student Sahibganj College and Sarvashri Goswami and B. D. Chatterjee of Mohan Bagan Football Team. The Officer in charge, Government Railway Police advised both the parties to seek redress from a competent court as the offence committed was non-cognizable.

Accidents Enquiry Committees

754. Shri Shobha Ram: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many Railway accidents enquiry Committees were appointed in 1956 and 1957 and what actions have been taken on the findings of these Committees?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): The total number of Committees constituted of enquiry into accidents was 1909 in 1956; and 2056 in 1957.

In the findings of the Committees of Enquiry, conclusions as to the staff held responsible for the accidents and recommendations for prevention of similar accidents were given.

Suitable disciplinary action was taken against the staff held responsible and covered punishments varying from removal from service to censure and warning.

Action taken on the recommendations include revision of rules and station Working Orders, improvements to station yards and signalling and interlocking arrangements, improvements to level crossings, meacrossings, measures to prevent failure of track and rolling stock and so on.

Transport Cooperatives in Delhi

755. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how many Transport Cooperatives and viable units have been formed in Delhi up-to-date;

(b) how many of them were given permits to ply passenger services in the territory of Delhi; and

(c) how many vehicles belonging to these co-operatives have been allowed to handle goods traffic in the territory?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 11 transport co-operatives and 101 registered companies, out of which 22 own ten vehicles or more.

(b) 4 transport co-operatives and 24 companies.

(c) 626, out of which, 53 belong to co-operative societies and 573 to companies.

Canteen at Igatpuri Station

756. Shri Jadhav: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of the construction of Canteen at Igatpuri loco-shed (Central Railways) has been completed;

(b) whether it is a fact that the construction is likely to be demolished in the near future when the work of electrification of Railway line will be taken up from Igatpuri to Bhusawal; and

(c) what amount was sanctioned for the construction of the canteen?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Rs. 49,764.

Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates on Northern Railway

757. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates, recruited or selected as class II and III officers on the Northern Railway upto the end of 1957; and

(b) the percentage reserved by Government to them?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) There is no percentage reservation in the case of selection to Class II or Class III. As regards the percentage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes recruited to these classes, information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(b) Class II—Class II posts are generally filled by promotion of suitable Class III staff and in promotions there is no reservation at pre-

sent. Where, however, direct recruitment to Class II is resorted to, the following percentage is applied:—

Scheduled Castes—12½%

Scheduled Tribes—5%

Class III—

Scheduled Castes:

By open competition on all All-India basis—12½%

By other means i.e. with local or regional bias on Northern Railway—17%

Scheduled Tribes:

By open competition on an All-India basis—5%

By other means i.e. with local or regional bias on Northern Railway—Nil.

Pilgrim Tax

758. Shri Vajpayee: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Municipal Board of Mathura has requested the Government of India to increase the Pilgrim Tax on the people visiting the holy city by rail;

(b) if so, the proposed increase; and

(c) the decision taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Arable Land in States

759. Shri Jadhav: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state the total acreage of land in the various States and the Union territories with a break-up of each State upto the end of the year 1957 and the percentage to arable land of the same?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.