

Accident near Chhapi

1325. **Shri P. R. Patel:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether a railway accident occurred at the Chhapi Station (Western Railway) on or about the 31st October, 1959;

(b) what damage or loss was caused thereby to the Railways and to others;

(c) whether any persons died therein;

(d) what was the cause of the accident; and

(e) whether any compensation had been given to persons injured or relatives of persons killed and for loss caused to cattle therein?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy**): (a) On 3rd November, 1959 at about 09.40 hours while 899 Up through goods train was running through Chhapi station, 17 wagons got derailed.

(b) Rs. 17,600 to the Railway property and that to public property Rs. 700 approximately.

(c) No.

(d) It is under examination.

(e) No claim for compensation has so far been preferred.

Oil Tankers

1326. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether negotiations with the three leading foreign oil firms—Burmah Shell, Stanvac and Caltex—for charter of ocean-going oil tankers to them in a bid to save foreign exchange have been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange likely to be saved?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications

(**Shri Raj Bahadur**): (a) The negotiations are still under progress.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is not possible at this stage to estimate the amount of foreign exchange likely to be saved.

Thefts on Railways

1327. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of thefts, pilferages and loss of property that have occurred during the months from January to October, 1959 on the Northern Railway; and

(b) how does this compare with the corresponding period of the year 1958?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan**): (a) and (b). The required particulars are given below:—

	For the period	
	1-1-59 to 31-10-59	1-1-58 to 31-10-58
	No.	No.
1. Theft	321	277
2. Pilferages	149	133
3. Loss of Railway Property	1223	1110

Loss of Wheat

1328. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were cases of loss in transit of wheat despatched by trains from Calcutta to the Government depot at Gauhati in Assam during the years 1957, 1958 and 1959 so far;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and the amount of loss in quantity;

(c) the amount claimed by Government from the Railways; and