

Calcutta are adequate so as to enable this arrangement to be worked satisfactorily?

Shri Raj Bahadur: A Co-ordination Committee has been set up which will look after all these problems. A special officer is also being appointed for this purpose to see that the co-ordinated arrangements are carried out properly. The essential movement depends upon the carrying capacity and the line capacity of the railways and also the loading capacity at the port of Calcutta. I think these will come up to the required expectations.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether any return cargo arrangements have been made so that the freight may be lessened?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The Coastal Conference have already made a request that they should be assured as far as possible about the return cargo being made available, and we are trying to see that steps are taken to achieve that objective as far as possible.

Fire in Railway Godown at Howrah

*1477. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 88 on the 15th November, 1960 regarding fire in Railway Godown at Howrah and state:

(a) whether the enquiry has since been completed; and

(b) if so, what are the findings?

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

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The Cause of the fire has been investigated by (i) Inspector of Explosives, Eastern Circle Calcutta (ii) Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Sadar, Howrah and (iii) Superintendent, Railway Police, Howrah.

The findings of the investigating authorities mentioned above are as under:

Inspector of Explosives.

The initiation of fire was in all probability due to presence of white phosphorous packages. Water of some of the phosphorous containers might have dried up some how and as it is well known, white phosphorous in dry condition starts burning automatically. Subsequently molten phosphorous with the flame must have crept through other packages thereby increasing the intensity of the fire and ultimately the fire spread to the packages of various commodities and set the entire place on fire.

Other possibilities like electric short circuiting, or any outside agency being the causes for initiation of the fire seem to be remote.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Howrah.

I am of the definite opinion that the fire was not caused by any explosive substance....

I am of the opinion that the articles stored in the godown were in keeping with the relevant rules and Act.... there was no explosive stored in the godown and even in the case of non-explosive but combustible goods, precautions were taken.... The incident can be called an act of God and no foul play is suspected in this case."

Superintendent of Police, Howrah

During the Police investigation nothing more could be found other than what transpired during the magisterial enquiry. There was no evidence of any criminal operation.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: From the statement I find that three officers were appointed to hold an enquiry, and their findings differ from each other. May I know what is the view of the Government and which of those findings has been accepted?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: Enquiries were held by the Inspector of Explo-

sives. His presumption is that it might have been due to phosphorus being present in the containers. The sub-divisional magistrate said that he is "of the definite opinion that the fire was not caused by any explosive substance." The Superintendent of Police, however, said:

"During the police investigation nothing more could be found other than what transpired during the magisterial enquiry. There was no evidence of any criminal operation."

These are the findings of the different officers who had enquired into it.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that the findings of all the three responsible officers differ....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: My question was, in view of the fact that all these findings differ from each other, what is the view of the Government and which of the findings has been accepted.

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: Sir, the magisterial enquiry said

"The incident can be called an act of God and no foul play is suspected in this case."

We would like to accept this.

Shri Hem Barua: Sir, three officers enquired into this matter. The Superintendent of Police who enquired into this said that it was due to some explosives. Another said that it was an act of God. The third officer said that any criminal operation could not be suspected. There are three different opinions. May I know what is the conclusion of the Government?

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over. The hon. Deputy Minister said that they had come to the conclusion that it was an act of God.

Shri Hem Barua: That is the opinion of one of the officers, and not the conclusion of the Government.

Mr. Speaker: That is all right. I am not going into that now. Hon. Members are entitled to hold their own opinions. All that the hon. Member can do is to elicit information as to what the final decision of the Government is. They think that it is only an act of God.

Shri Hem Barua: That is the opinion of one of the officers who enquired into this.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I cannot substitute the hon. Member's opinion for the opinion of the Government.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Incentive Schemes for Scientists

*1463. **Shri Damani:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any final decision has been taken for instituting incentive scheme for scientists who evolve new techniques for increasing food production; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) and (b). No such scheme has been instituted. Outstanding work done by Scientists in evolving new techniques for increasing food production receives due recognition from Government.

Train between Chalisgaon and Bhusaval

*1464. **Shri Assar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a great demand from the public to have one more local train between Chalisgaon and Bhusaval on account of heavy rush;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is a demand from the public to