

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) Yes.

(b) In October, 1966, the Railway Board had appointed a Committee consisting of the Additional Members, Works, Mechanical and Finance, to enquire into the procedural lapses in this case. No. specific terms of reference were prescribed, as the Committee was directed to go into the matter and decide upon the terms of reference themselves. Subsequently, on receipt of the 72nd Report of the Public Accounts Committee suggesting that a representative of Audit should also be associated with this body, the Additional Deputy Auditor General of India (Railways) has also been included in the Committee. As directed by the Public Accounts Committee the particular transaction is to be examined in detail by the Committee, keeping in view the Public Accounts Committee's observations on the case.

Accident of Varanasi-Bhatni Passenger Train

1390. Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri K. N. Pandey:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 7 Down Varanasi Bhatni Passenger train met with a serious accident following a gale on the 13th May, 1967 between Bhatni and Piyokola Stations of the North Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the total number of casualties involved; and

(c) the total amount of loss caused to the railway property?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) On 13.5.1967, while 72 Down Varanasi-Bhatni passenger train was running between Peokol and Bhatni stations it was caught in a

violent storm as a result of which all the 11 coaches of the train got derailed and capsized.

(b) In this accident, 27 persons sustained injuries of whom 23 were discharged immediately after medical aid, 3 after further observation in the Railway hospital and the remaining 1 refused admission in the hospital.

(c) The cost of damage to railway property was estimated at approximately Rs. 3,31,600.

Supply of Equipment to Bhilai Steel Plant

1391. Shri Kartik Oraon: Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction of the six blast furnace Complex of Bhilai Steel Plant has been delayed due to non-supply of the equipment and structures by the Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd., Ranchi, as per stipulated order; and

(b) if so, (i) the break-up of the equipment and structures supplied as against the orders as per schedule of delivery; (ii) the steps taken to fulfil the commitment; (iii) whether Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd. is subject to pay a liquidated damage to Bhilai Steel Plant?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Casting and Forging Work of N.E.C. Ranchi

1392. Shri Kartik Oraon: Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the casting and forging work of Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd., Ranchi is reasonably adequate to meet its own requirements and