

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

TWENTY-SECOND REPORT

Shri V. B. Gandhi (Bombay City—North): I beg to present the Twenty-second Report of the Public Accounts Committee on Appropriation Accounts (Posts and Telegraphs), 1953-54 and Audit Reports, 1955, Parts I and II and Audit Report (P&T), 1956, Part I.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

FORTY-EIGHTH AND FIFTY-EIGHTH
REPORTS

Shri B. G. Mehta (Gohilwad): I beg to present the following Reports of the Estimates Committee:—

- (1) Forty-eighth Report on the Ministry of Transport (Major Ports).
- (2) Fifty-eighth Report on the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Tenth Report of the Committee.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCEACCIDENT NEAR VINAY NAGAR LEVEL
CROSSING

Shri Radha Raman (Delhi City): Under Rule 216, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Railways to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

“Railway Accident at Vinay Nagar level crossing on the 23rd March, 1957.”

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Jagjivan Ram): At about 4-55 hours on 23rd March, 1957, while UP Ghaziabad-Delhi Safdarganj Goods Train with a load of 22-23 four-wheelers hauled by Steam Engine No. 1329 was passing the level crossing No. 5 between Nizamuddin and Delhi Safdarjang, it collided against motor truck DLC-9130 approaching from Maharauli side and proceeding towards Delhi. The collision occurred at right-angles. The Truck was completely

smashed and pushed to a distance of 240 feet. This resulted in the death of four occupants of the truck and serious injuries to the driver of the truck who got entangled in the debris. One remaining occupant of the truck who was thrown off escaped with minor injuries. None of the railway employees was injured.

Between Nizamuddin and Delhi Safdarjang, there are 4 halt stations, namely, Lajpat Nagar, Seva Nagar, Lodi Colony and Vinay Nagar. There are also 5 level-crossings on this block-section. Level-crossing Gate No. 5 at which the accident occurred is between Lodi Colony and Vinay Nagar. It is a 'B' Class level crossing manned by two Gatemen working 12 hours shifts, the duty hours being 8 hours to 20 hours and 20 hours to 8 hours. The road leading through this gate connects Maharauli with New Delhi. While approaching the gate by train from Nizamuddin towards Safdarjang the view of the road on Maharauli side is obstructed on account of gate-lodge, trees and gang huts. Signals are provided on either side of the gates to regulate movements of trains and are located at distance of 1080 feet and 614 feet from the gate on the Nizamuddin and Safdarjang sides respectively. The gate is interlocked and interlocking arrangements are such that after the gates have been closed, the gate lock-keys are extracted from the gate-locks and inserted in the locks provided on the gate signal lever, before the signal can be lowered. While the gates are open, it is not possible to lower signals. The track at the site of the accident is on the straight and with a gradient of 1 in 460 rising towards Safdarjang. The road at the level crossing is also on the straight. It is level between the gates but has a slope of 1 in 77 on Maharauli side and 1 in 60 on the airport side.

On this section, four passengers and two goods trains are running daily each way.

As the Goods Train did not reach Delhi-Safdarjang within the schedule time, enquiries were made by the