

(b) the grants given?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). The State Government has asked for a provision of Rs. 13.80 lakhs including the Central and State share. The full amount has been approved. Out of this, the Government of India will provide a sum of Rs. 5.88 lakhs (Rs. 5.04 lakhs as loan and Rs. 0.84 lakhs as grant). The balance will be provided by the State Government as their share.

12 hrs.

#### DEATH OF SHRI S. K. BANERJEA

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri Santosh Kumar Banerjea, who was a sitting member of this House from Cooch-Bihar constituency of West Bengal. He died at his residence in Calcutta on Sunday night at the age of 53.

Shri Banerjea took a special interest in industries, especially tea industry and was also representing Lok Sabha on the Tea Board. He also took keen interest in Red Cross work.

We mourn the loss of Shri S. K. Banerjea and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

The House may stand in silence for a minute to express its sorrow.

*(The Members then stood in silence for a minute.)*

#### MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

##### EXPLOSION OF AMMUNITION AT PATHANKOT RAILWAY SIDING

Mr. Speaker: I have received notices of four adjournment motions from Shri Ram Sevak Yadav, Shri S. M. Banerjee, Shri U. L. Patil and

Shri Braj Raj Singh. The first one reads:

"The situation created by accident at Pathankot Railway siding which resulted in death of many persons and loss to property."

All of them relate to the explosion at Pathankot railway siding. I have received a letter from the office of the Defence Minister, from Shri Venkateswaran, Under Secretary, stating:

"It is reported that a serious explosion has taken place at Pathankot today. The Defence Minister wishes to make a statement regarding it in the Lok Sabha on the 25th February 1958" (that is, today). "In order to obtain first hand information, he is flying to Pathankot at 6 a.m. and is expected to be back by 12-30 on 25th February 1958. He will make a statement soon after his return from Pathankot."

This is the information I have received.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Ferozabad): This explosion took place in a railway siding. There were some explosions before also and many lives have been lost. So, this is very important. Will the hon. Railway Minister also attend to this matter?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): May I say that I ascertained the position and I find that the Railway Ministry is not concerned with this matter because the entire loading and unloading and handling of this thing is done by Defence Ministry themselves. So, the statement will be made by my colleague, the Defence Minister.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): May I submit that the *Times of India* has reported that out of 40 people, 31 are civilians and 9 service personnel? This happened at the railway siding;