

Community Radio Sets

30. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state the number of Community Radio sets distributed in Punjab State under the Community listening scheme for the rural areas so far?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keekar): The Punjab Government (including PEPSU) has been supplied with 3,610 Community Radio sets up to 31st March, 1957 under the Community Listening Scheme.

Employment Exchange in Delhi

31. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons registered with the Employment Exchange in Delhi during 1955-56 and 1956-57; and

(b) the number of persons out of them who have not been provided with jobs so far?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a)

1955-56.	1,00,885
1956-57.	94,650
Total.	1,95,535

(b) Of the total number registered 1,71,945 were not provided with jobs.

Rural Housing in Punjab

32. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state whether any amount has been allotted to Punjab for Rural Housing during the Second Five Year Plan period?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): A State-wise allocation of funds for Village Housing Projects for the entire Plan period has not been made as yet.

12 hrs.

DEATHS OF SHRI SARANGADHAR DAS AND SHRI R. S. SARMA

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House of the sad demise of two erstwhile Members, namely, Shri Sarangadhar Das who was a member of the First Lok Sabha and Shri R. S. Sarma, who was a member of the old Central Legislative Assembly.

Shri Sarangadhar Das was a member of the First Lok Sabha and also a member of the Constituent Assembly of India and the Provisional Parliament. He passed away at Cuttack on the 19th September, 1957, at the age of 71.

Shri R. S. Sarma was a nominated member of the old Central Legislative Assembly. He passed away in his village in Tanjore district at the age of 69.

We mourn the loss of these friends, and I am sure the House will join with me in conveying our condolences to their families.

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

Railway accident at Baranagore.

Mr. Speaker: I have received notices of several adjournment motions. Some of them, or, mostly all of them, relate to State matters. The first one relates to a railway accident on the 10th November, 1957, at Baranagore, injuring seriously five persons including one ticket collector. What is the position?

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): Sir, may I point out one thing? This accident happened yesterday near Calcutta. But we find that a much more serious accident took place on

the 8th in the North-Eastern Railway, 80 miles from Kanpur. We were informed that it was a metre gauge train, and in that accident four people were seriously injured and 30 more people injured. These two things have happened almost....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Members cannot take advantage of my leniency. Now, they must come up with a statement as to what exactly has happened. Does the hon. Member want another adjournment motion to be moved without its being tabled here for an answer? Of course, the hon. Minister may answer both. He can make a statement or if he has got only the fact of the accident, the statement may take sometime.

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): I have got the facts regarding the accident of which notice of adjournment has been given. On 10th November, 1957 at about 20.16 hours, while S 196 Dn. Dankuni-Sealdah Local was standing at Baranagar Road station on the Dankuni-Dum Dum double line section of Eastern Railway, 330 Dn. Kiul-Howrah Passenger which was diverted to Sealdah owing to remodelling work at Howrah, ran into the rear of S 196 Dn. resulting in the 4-wheeler luggage van and 4-wheeler vendor van of Dankuni Local Passenger being smashed. A Travelling Ticket Examiner on Dankuni Local was seriously injured and Brakesman of 330 Dn. received minor injuries. Two passengers travelling on Dankuni local passenger received minor injuries. Ambulance from B. R. Singh Hospital, Sealdah, and Lillooah Hospital were rushed to the site and medical attention was given to the injured persons. The Government Inspector of Railways is holding his enquiry today, that is, 11th November, 1957, and the cause of the accident will be known on completion of his enquiry.

Mr. Speaker: In view of this statement....

Shri Sadhan Gupta (Calcutta-East): May I know whether the travelling ticket examiner who has been seriously injured would be entitled to obtain compensation from the Railways?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Whatever he will be entitled to under the Workmen's Compensation Act will be awarded to him.

Shri Feroze Gandhi (Rai Bareilly): I wanted to draw your attention to one thing with regard to such railway accidents. The Minister always states that the Government Inspector of Railways is carrying out the enquiry. But we never receive the reports of the enquiry. In the last session, I tabled a question with regard to the accident in which several lives were lost and the Minister said that as soon as the report was received, he would place a copy of it on the Table of the House. But nothing happened. This seems to be the peculiar feature of most of the accidents which take place. The reports on the accidents are not available, and we cannot discuss them. May I know whether the Minister can take some steps to see that within a month of the accident or, say, within two months, these reports are made available?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: What I said on the last occasion was that as soon as the report of the Government Inspector was received, I would request the Communications Ministry, to which these reports are submitted, to place the report of the enquiry on the Table of the House. But I was told that there are certain obvious legal difficulties. In fact, that question was examined by the Law Ministry and the Communications Ministry. I think the Minister in charge of the Communications Ministry will perhaps in due course enlighten the House in greater detail as to the difficulties which are there in making the reports available to the House.

Mr. Speaker: I do not know if the hon. Member wants that every report ought to be placed automatically on the Table of the House. I thought that with respect to serious accidents, it may be done. So far as the subject-matter of the present adjournment motion today is concerned,—of course even small injury is bad and it ought to be avoided—the question is whether it ought to be made an occasion for an adjournment here. Also, the question is whether, automatically, whenever small accidents arise, the reports about those accidents are to be placed on the Table of the House, and the time of the House taken for that purpose. But I expect that in all serious cases, the Minister could make a statement to the House when the House is in session, or, if the House is not in session, soon after it has assembled. The hon. Minister will consider the desirability of informing the House of all those cases where there are serious losses of life and so on, and make the statement or the report available to the House. In other cases, everyone of those reports need not be placed on the Table of the House unless the hon. Minister wants to draw the attention of the House or wants it to be placed on the Table of the House.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I readily agree to your suggestion that whenever there is a major accident, we need not wait for an adjournment motion or any other motion, but a statement should be made before the House by the Minister, and when the House is not in session, as soon as the House meets, a statement regarding any major accident will be made to the House.

Shri S. V. Ramaswami (Salem): The report of the Cuddapah accident, where a goods train with a double engine rolled back six miles.....

Mr. Speaker: We need not go into the details of all other accidents here. Every hon. Member wants to draw the attention of the House to an

accident. If they desire, they may send a notice or get the information from the hon. Minister.

Now, in view of the statement made by the hon. Minister I am not called upon to give my consent to this adjournment motion.

ALLEGED STARVATION DEATHS AND
DRAUGHT CONDITIONS IN VARIOUS
PARTS OF U.P., BIHAR, ETC.

Mr. Speaker: There is another adjournment motion about starvation deaths. I am disallowing it. There will be a food debate here and a number of questions could be asked, and the hon. Minister will certainly have a day for discussion on that matter. Therefore, I am disallowing that motion as well as the motion relating to deaths due to drought in various parts of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

DISTURBANCES IN RAMANATHAPURAM
DISTRICT

Mr. Speaker: There is one small matter—not a small matter—relating to the unfortunate incident in Ramanathapuram. The adjournment motion thereto has been tabled by Shri B. C. Kamble. It is certainly a matter of law and order for the State Government, but in view of the fact that a number of Harijans and others are concerned in it—it looks that in some portions it is a group communal clash—and we are in charge of Harijan welfare and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the question is whether it can be admitted or not, and therefore, I had no time to consider whether it ought to be admitted. But anyhow, adjournment motion is not the proper way. A number of questions have been tabled. Let us have full answers so far as those questions are concerned and also as regards any suggestions that may be made by the House. What is the reaction of the hon. Minister?