

from the 1st April, 1971 to 30th June, 1971 month-wise ;

(b) in how many cases enquiry was conducted and what are the findings ; and

(c) the amount of loss and the number of persons killed, separately in each accident ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) (a) During April 71, May 71 and from 1. 6. 71 to 15. 6. 71 (up to which date information is available) there were 83, 78 and 40 train accidents respectively in the categories of collisions, derailments, train running into road traffic at level crossings and fires in trains on the Indian Government Railways.

(b) All these accidents were inquired into. Of the 194 cases, the causes of which have been ascertained so far, 96 were due to failure of railway staff, 44 due to acts of other than railway staff and 31 due to failure of railway equipment. Of the remaining cases, 19 were accidental in nature for which no one was held responsible, in 3 cases the cause could not be precisely determined and 1 case was due to sabotage.

(c) The cost of damage to railway property as a result of collisions, derailments, level crossing accidents and fires in trains for the period 1.4.1971 to 15.6.1971 has been estimated at approximately Rs. 6,05,871/-, Rs. 7,91,992/-, Rs. 12,455/- and Rs. 1,00,119/- respectively. The number of persons killed as a result of these categories of accidents was 10, 3, 19 and 12 respectively.

SHRI P. GANGADEB : The Hon. Minister stated that 44 accidents were due to causes unconnected with acts of railway staff. What are those accidents and what steps have been taken to prevent them ?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : Most of these accidents were on the unmanned railway crossing, Government are looking into this matter. As has already been stated by the hon. Minister in reply to the budget debate, Government are thinking of constructing more over and under-bridges.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMIKANTHAMMA : In the third class and other compartments, due to the heavy rush, young men and students have to hang on outside the compartments and sometimes they dash against the signal post which is very close by. So many accidents take place on account of this. The other day I saw the deadbody of a person who died by such an accident lying on the road. Is there any proposal to shift the signal posts a little further away from the outside of the compartments so as to avoid such accidents ?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI : There is a proposal to educate people to travel in the compartment and not hang outside it.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMIKANTHAMMA : That serves no purpose. Only the other day I saw the victim of such an accident.

Running of trains on uneconomic Railway lines by Private Parties

*941. **SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: (a) whether, before closing down uneconomic Railway lines, Government propose to invite such parties through advertisement who could undertake the responsibility of running the said lines under the technical supervision of the Railway Board ;

(b) whether the said lines would be continued in case the Railway users of the area, Panchayat Samitis, industrial units etc. assure to make good the loss based on some formula ; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to explore such possibilities ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). No such proposal has been received so far. The matter will be examined on merits, if any specific proposal is received.

SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA : May I know the names of the lines to be closed down because they are running at a deficit, and the steps Government propose to take to see that they may continue to function in the interests of the nation ?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: On our present reckoning, there are 75 uneconomic branch lines on the Indian Government railways. Of these, 10 are broad gauge, 26 metre gauge and 39 narrow gauge. If the hon. Member wants the break-up I can also give it. But immediately we are closing Kunkava-Dardi on the Western Railway, Lataguru-Ramshah on the N.F. Railway and Jorhat Neamati on the N.F. Railway.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: In view of the fact that these uneconomic railways are going to be abolished, may I know whether the State Governments will be consulted and whether any proposal will be made to the State Governments to come to the aid of the Central Government so as to keep these railways going?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: Before a final decision is taken on closing down a particular line, the State Governments are consulted.

Mode of addressing the Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court

*942. **SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:** Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state: (a) whether Government have received a copy of a Resolution passed by the Kerala Advocates Association in 1969 that the mode of addressing the Judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court as "My Lord" "Your Lordship" and "His Lordship" in the Court be discontinued; and

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to discontinue the relics in addressing the Judge and carrying of a silver covered mace by a mace bearer in front of the Judge as he comes to and goes from the court room?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY): (a) No Sir.

(b) The manner of address, procedure and practice in the High Courts are matters for consideration by the Chief Justices of the High Courts. It would not be appropriate for Govt. to interfere in these matters.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: The answer is really very disappointing because we are living in a period when the concept of responsibility has greatly changed. May I know whether the Government would reconsider the position it had originally taken regarding this matter?

MR. SPEAKER: He is not asking a question. He says: let it be reconsidered. Are you leaving it to the Judges or....

SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY: The matter is left to the Judges to decide.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: The Minister said that the matter would be left to the judiciary. I do not know why in the present situation, when even the Vatican is changing the dress of the nuns and priests, Government is, insisting on this.

MR. SPEAKER: What, do you want to clash with the judiciary?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. GOKHALE): This question of using these honorifics like "Your Lordship" and "Your Honour".....

MR. SPEAKER: I do not want them to be used for me.

SHRI H.R. GOKHALE:is not a matter of law. There is no law laying down whether this should be used or not.

MR. SPEAKER: If you call me as Mr. Speaker, why not the Chief Justice as Your Lordship?

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE: I am not against the suggestion personally, and if the law had permitted Government's interference in this matter, probably Government would have reconsidered this matter. This has come down as a matter of tradition. So far as Government is concerned, as early as 1952 when this question was raised, Government took the view that so far as Government addressing the Judges as in the past, Hon. Mr. Justice so-and-so etc. It was discontinued as a result of a top level decision taken in 1952. Since there is no law, Government will not use them. They will not use them with reference to individual persons also. It used to be hon. Minister. Now everybody is Mr. or Shri.