

Egyptian Authorities to reduce prices. Contracts were made for 64,000 Egyptian bales. There was some delay in finalisation of contracts for the balance quantity. However, as a result of discussions held in April 1972 with the Egyptian authorities an understanding has been reached and out of balance quantity of 35,000 Egyptian bales, 15,000 Egyptian bales have been offered immediately and the balance would be available in September, 1972.

RAJDHANI EXPRESS BETWEEN DELHI AND CALCUTTA

*29. SHRI DHARAM CHAND JAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to reduce the disturbing sound inside the compartments of Rajdhani Express running between Delhi and Calcutta which is on the increase; and

(b) what was the occupancy rate for 1969-70, 1970-71 and 1971-72 of Rajdhani Express for sleeper, air-conditioned and Chair-car accommodation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) A constant watch is kept on the maintenance of the Rajdhani Express rake and whenever any unusual feature or noise is observed or reported upon, immediate steps are taken by the maintenance staff to investigate and rectify the defects, if any.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

The percentage of average occupation in Air-conditioned sleeper and Chair-cars of Rajdhani Express during the last three years was as follows:

Year			A.C. Sleeper (per cent)	A.C. Chair Car (per cent)
1969-70	..	..	89	84
1970-71	..	..	95.3	94
1971-72	..	..	94.5	96.2

ACCIDENT INVOLVING ASSAM MAIL

*30. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that recently there was a train accident at level crossing between Buxar and Chausa involving the Assam Mail resulting in the death of eight persons; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 13-4-1972 while train No. 86 Down Assam Mail was running between Chausa and Buxar stations of the Eastern Railway it collided with a tractor and trailer at the engineering level crossing gate No. 74/C at Km. 667/5. In this accident eight persons were killed and one sustained minor injury.

ELECTRIFICATION OF VILLAGES

1. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state the number of villages in different States which have been electrified in 1970, 1971 and so far in 1972 and its percentage in relation to total number of villages in the respective States?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BAD NATH KUREEL) : A statement is attached. [See Appendix LXXX, Annexure No. 7]

SHORTAGE OF PETROL/PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

2. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR :

SHRI KRISHAN KANT :

SHRI D. P. SINGH :

DR. Z. A. AHMAD :

SHRI GULAM NABI UNTOO :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :