

Chakradharpur-Nagpur passenger train was being admitted on the loop line at Rajnandgaon station of South Eastern Railway, it collided with a light engine standing on the same line. The cause of the accident is under investigation by the Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety. There was no loss of life. The cost of damage to the railway property was approximately Rs. 250.

SUGGESTIONS ON TOURISM

*64. SHRI OM MEHTA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Mr. John B. Gates, Vice-Chairman of the International Hotels Corporation, at a press conference in New Delhi admitted that tourism was a multi-pronged industry and following reasons were responsible for not attracting large number of tourists in this country;

(i) lack of good hotels and accommodation;

(ii) limited opportunities for contacting people, due to prohibition;

(iii) paper formalities to be gone through at the point of embarkation; and

(iv) lack of air-conditioned auditoria; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take on these suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Yes, Sir. Reports to this effect have appeared in the Press.

(b) The Government, being aware of a few of these difficulties, appointed in March, 1963 an *ad hoc* committee to enquire and suggest ways and means of expanding tourist traffic. The Report of the Committee was submitted on the 23rd August, 1963 and the principal recommendations have been accepted by the Government. Steps are being taken by the Government to implement the important recommendations of that committee.

SPECIAL TRAINS FROM POONA TO VASCO-DA-GAMA

*65. { SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR:
SHRI M. M. DHARIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that special trains were promised to be run from Poona to Vasco-da-Gama on the Southern Railway for the Marathi Sahitya Sammelan at Margaon on the 8th, 9th and 10th May, 1964; and

(b) if so, how many trains were run and when they were run?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Two special trains were run on the 7th May, 1964.

SCARCITY OF RICE IN CALCUTTA

*66. { SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:
SHRI NIREN GHOSH:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to reports in the Calcutta Press about scarcity of rice in Calcutta's retail and fair price shops;

(b) if so, whether he has asked for detailed reports about the scarcity; and

(c) what assistance from the Centre has been asked for and/or given to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No special assistance for this purpose is at present required.

PROCUREMENT PRICES OF FOODGRAINS

*67. SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the policy: