

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know if it is a fact—and the papers have mentioned it—that this drain is also one of the causes of flooding a number of fields in the Delhi area?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: That is one of the causes.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know how long it will take to settle this dispute and what efforts are being made in this direction?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: We had discussions with the Punjab Government and the Delhi Administration at the Central Water and Power Commission. There was difference between the two administrations. They did not agree to a particular alignment. Recently we requested Dr. Khosla and he has prepared an alignment, and now I think practically all the points have been settled except one or two minor points.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: How long will it take for us to get the result and settle the dispute once and for all?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: As soon as the Punjab Government agrees to this.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: He says as soon as Punjab Government agrees to this. Do I understand then that whatever recommendations may be made by Dr. Khosla, their acceptance would be contingent upon either party accepting them? Is it not possible for the Government to give a sort of award in the event of an unresolved dispute between the two administrations?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: There is no question of giving an award. Dr. Khosla did not work as an arbitrator, but the Punjab Government has certain difficulties. The alignment was to run through fertile land as the Punjab Government said, and it would be rather displeasing their

own villagers and people whose lands would be affected. Therefore, a *via media* taking up this alignment from a higher ground has been chalked out, and perhaps we shall be able to persuade the Punjab Government to agree to that.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: In view of the constant damage to the Delhi villages and the Delhi lands, may I know why the Government of India puts no pressure on the Punjab Government to see the reasonableness of coming to a settlement immediately?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: We have been doing.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: They are having domestic troubles.

DERAILMENT OF SAURASHTRA EXPRESS

*54. SHRI J. C. CHATTERJI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the first week of October, 1961 the rear bogie of the 16 Up Saurashtra Express got derailed between Broach and Ankleshwar Railway Stations;

(b) if so, what was the cause thereof; and

(c) how many persons were killed or wounded in the derailment?

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

(b) The cause is under investigation.

(c) Two killed and 8 injured.

SHRI T. S. AVINASHLINGAM CHETTIAR: Now that the Minister of Railways is here, may I know, in view of the large number of accidents that have been happening, whether they have gone into the question as a whole and whether they have found any sabotage in these things? That is

number 1. Number 2: I read an answer in which it was said that it was due to the failure of the human element. If the human element fails so much in so many places, may I know what attempts are made to improve the human element?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: It cannot be said. The causes are different in different cases of accidents and they are ascertained after investigation, in the case of major accidents, by the Government Inspector of Railways and in the case of minor accidents by the railway officers of the appropriate level. The causes may be different, and whenever the reports of the particular accidents have been received and where they have suggested certain measures to be taken, the railways have implemented them. And so far as the staff is concerned, we have a regular scheme of training and we give them refresher courses and wherever it is found that there has been laxity on their part, punitive measures are also taken. I made a statement yesterday and I placed a statement on the Table of the House. There also we have detailed what measures we have been taking with a view to minimising the incidence of accidents on the railways. And the only thing that I can say at this stage is that the Railway Board is going to intensify all the measures so that as far as possible, we can minimise the incidence of accidents.

SHRI T. S. AVINASHLINGAM: CHETTIAR: May I know whether the Government has gone into the matter and ruled out that any sabotage is being done?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I have said that whenever an accident takes place, the Government Inspector of Railways investigates into the matter and where it is a case of sabotage, he says that it is sabotage.

PANDIT HRIDAY NATH KUNZRU: The first impulse of everybody who enquiries into these accidents is to say that they are due to sabotage. But is it not possible really to hold profitably

a general inquiry into the causes of the accidents that have occurred and which have exercised the minds of the public even more than that of the Railway Board or of the Railway Minister? The hon. Minister said that the causes might be different in different case*. But there may be some general causes which affect all these failures, for instance, with regard to the condition of the permanent way or the training of the men or fatigue or there may be some other factors also. And would it not be useful in such cases to hold a general inquiry into the matter concerning the number of serious accidents that have occurred?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Sir, as I have said, I have placed a statement on the Table of the Sabha yesterday. Let the hon. Members go through that. No doubt, in the last few days I would say there have been a number of serious accidents; they have exercised the minds of the Railway Ministry and the country as a whole.

PANDIT HRIDAY NATH KUNZRU: And of the country more than that of the Ministry.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Ministry? Ministry as well. I have not said that it has not exercised the mind of the Ministry very much.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Our minds are also exercised though you may say that the cause is derailment.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I do not think it is an occasion for indulging in such funs. We have been exercised, and as Dr. Kunzru has suggested, whether a general investigation is required or not, I will examine that aspect. We have been every year compiling statistics of accidents on the railways and their causes and whenever there are major accidents, as the House is aware investigations are held. Whether a general inquiry is called for or not, I will examine that suggestion which has been made by Dr. Kunzru.

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SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: One question, Sir. The causes of accidents may be different. From what has appeared in the paper, the causes may be remote and immediate and also human and technical. As far as these individual cases are concerned, an on-the-spot inquiry takes place relating to what has happened immediately. Now, Sir, what is the reason why in view of so many accidents having taken place in the recent period, the Government is not going into the entire question covering the entire range of causes that may or may not have led to these accidents and disasters?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He will consider it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: That is the main thing.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He said so. Next question.

*55 [The questioner (Shri Niranjan Singh) was absent. For answer, vide col., 253 infra.]

स्मारक डाक-टिकट

*५६. श्री नवाबसिंह चौहान : क्या परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इस वर्ष कौन कौन से नये स्मारक डाक-टिकट निकालने का विचार डाक और तार विभाग कर रहा है और यह कब कब निकाले जायेंगे ;

(ख) इस सम्बन्ध में विभिन्न प्रकार के डाक-टिकट निकालने के सुझाव देने वाले

कितने पत्र अब तक प्राप्त हुए हैं और उन पर क्या निर्णय किया गया ;

(ग) ऐसे डाक-टिकट निकालने का निर्णय किस आघार पर व किसके द्वारा किया जाता है; और

(घ) इन डाक-टिकटों के लिये चित्र व डिजाइन छांटने की जिम्मेदारी किसके ऊपर है ?

t [COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

*56. SHRI NAWAB SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what new commemorative stamps are proposed to be issued by the Posts and Telegraphs Department during the current year and by when they will be issued;

(b) how many letters have so far been received giving various suggestions for the issue of stamps in this regard and what is the decision taken thereon;

(c) what is the basis on which a decision for the issue of such stamps is taken and by whom-such decision is taken; and

(d) who is responsible for the selection of pictures and designs for these stamps?]

f [English translation. उपसत्री (श्री ज० सा० हाथी): (क) से (घ) सभा पटल पर एक विवरण-पत्र रखा जाता है।