

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It has been placed on the Table and in the library.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: What was the object of the observance of this Week—whether shooting was to be prohibited only during this Week or throughout the year under certain circumstances?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Almost every university, every State including the Governor and the Chief Minister undertake and help to celebrate it. The scale may differ from one State to another, but there is no difference of opinion so far as the importance of protection of wild life is concerned. And the main purpose of this Week is to increase mass consciousness about the preservation of this important wild life, especially those species which are likely to become extinct.

ACCIDENT TO TRIVANDRUM PASSENGER

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Trivandrum Passenger train met with an accident between Akathumuri and Varkala stations on the Trivandrum-Quilon Section of the Southern Railway in the middle of September, 1961; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the accident?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY) : (a) and (b) At about 21.55 hours on 14-9-1961, while No. 110 Np Trivandrum Central-Madras Egmore Passenger was on the run between Akathumuri and Varkala stations on the Kadakavur-Varkala Block section of Trivandrum-Quilon section on Southern Railway, the engine and four bogies next to it derailed. There was no injury to the train crew or passengers. The approximate cost of damage to Railway has been assessed at Rupees four thousand only. The cause of the accident is under investigation by the Railway administration.

SHRI T. S. AVINASHLINGAM CHETTIAR: May I know whether the Government have gone into the matter of so many accidents that have happened in recent times and what they are doing about it? Recently it was reported that in six months or so about 1,800 accidents occurred. It is a very serious matter. May I know what the Government are doing about it?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: This is a particular question. My friend is raising a general question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: No, Sir. In this connection, so many accidents* have occurred.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We cannot go into the other accidents.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Even the* they are accidents. Has there been any general, broader enquiry with regard to this matter as to why so many accidents have taken place? This accident is one of them, of the same category.

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: The hon. Minister made a statement yesterday.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Statement you can make, but . . .

SHRI T. S. AVINASHLINGAM CHETTIAR: The question is not about the number of accidents. The question is what the Government are doing about it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yesterday the Minister made a statement.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The Government is only making statements.

PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: What is the Government's reply to the question whether, in view of the numerous accidents that have taken place, any general enquiry is proposed to be made? The Minister has not replied to it. Surely he ought not to

be allowed to keep quiet in a matter like this and get over his responsibility so easily.

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: I am not keeping quiet. I beg to submit that the hon. Minister made a statement and he explained the position yesterday.

PANDIT HRIDAY NATH KUNZRU: The hon. Minister made a statement with regard to specific accidents, but we want to know whether any general enquiry is proposed to be instituted into the reasons for so many accidents.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Within so short a time.

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: The Ministry is certainly exercised about the number of accidents and we are taking every step to see that they are minimised. If I am permitted, it would be a very long statement and some time may be given to detail the steps we are taking to see that accidents are kept under control, what protective measures we have taken, what instructions we have issued and how we are tightening up matters.

PANDIT HRIDAY NATH KUNZRU: I suggest that, if the Government has to make a statement on this subject, it should make the statement tomorrow. I hope you will allow the hon. Deputy Minister to make a statement on the subject tomorrow. It is a subject of great importance and the public mind is exercised even more than that of the Government, I have no doubt that the Government's mind is exercised, but we want to know whether it is capable of doing anything.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Their mind is exercised. The question here arises why so many accidents have taken place, in so short a time, whether there is any general enquiry with regard to this matter irrespective of individual cases. Now, the hon. Minister said that some statement had

been made yesterday and the day before. That is not the question at all. In view of these things taking place together, may I know whether the Government is so exercising its mind as to make it felt by way of certain concrete steps. We do not have any indication. Therefore, let him make a statement tomorrow consult all his senior colleagues, whoever he likes.

SHRI K. SANTHANAM: Ma, I also point out that we are not questioning the efforts of the Railway Administration to control these accidents. But the fact is that they have not succeeded. Therefore, we are anxious that a general enquiry should be made and he should let us know whether the Railway Administration is prepared to do that.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That will do. Next question.

PANDIT HRIDAY NATH KUNZRU: I would expect a statement from the Deputy Minister tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is for him. It is for the Government to decide.

(Interruptions)

PANDIT HRIDAY NATH KUNZRU: Does he propose to make a statement?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He cannot say it offhand.

PANDIT HRIDAY NATH KUNZRU: But I take it that he will soon make a statement and you lay that responsibility on him.

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: It is open to hon. Members to raise a half-an-hour or one hour discussion.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: ,No, no.

PANDIT HRIDAY NATH KUNZRU: Now you see that the Deputy Minister is trying to get virtually out of the promise that he made. He promised

to make a statement. He said that if he were to make a statement it would take him time to make a statement on the subject. Now, he says 'half-an-hour or one hour discussion'.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I do not think he made any such commitment.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: What did Tie say?

PANDIT HRIDAY NATH KUNZRU: Will he make a statement on the subject? It is only after that.

SHRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR: In view of the feelings expressed by us, a statement must be made on this matter.

PANDIT HRIDAY NATH KUNZRU: Let him lay a statement on the Table and we shall say whether we should raise a further discussion.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It has been laid on the Table yesterday.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: No, Sir. It was with regard to individual cases.

(Interruptions)

" MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: In the course of the Session you may make a statement.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: Sir . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: How does *he* come in?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: I would like to point out that I am concerned with the Railways also. The hon. Member does not know it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 'Minister' means any Minister.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: I would like to point out that every time there is an accident, the Government Inspector of Railways enquires into it and he is not under the Railway Administration

at all. He is under the Transport Ministry and whenever there is anything wrong, we point it out to the Railway Ministry and they take action on it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: What a consolation.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: That is not the point. You allowed him to make a statement.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I ask you, 'Why did he say this?' We know that the Government Inspector is making enquiries.

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: A statement was made yesterday, but that was only about the recent accidents. About the steps we are taking, if it is indicated . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you want to make a general statement^ you may make it. Next question.

SETTING UP OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION COUNCIL

•46. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up an Agricultural Production Council with financial assistance from the Government of the United States of America?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): No.

WASHING AWAY OF CHHITAUNI GHAT RAILWAY STATION AS A RESULT OF FLOODS

*47. SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Station of Chhitauni Ghat on the North Eastern Railway was