

**COLLISION BETWEEN A RAILWAY
ENGINE AND BULLOCK-CART NEAR
MALDA**

*381. 'SHRI RAMPRASANNA RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a fatal collision between a light railway engine and a bullock-cart resulting in death of two occupants of that cart and the two bullocks took place on the unmanned level crossing near No. 3 Government Colony, Malda Town (West Bengal) in the evening on the 26th November, 1962.

(b) if so, whether the engine had its head light on at the time of the collision; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to man this level crossing together with the other unmanned level crossing near No. 2 Government Colony in the said Town?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY) : (a) At about 18.25 hours on 26th November, 1962 while No. MC/41 Down goods train was running between Malda Town and Khatipur stations on Kathiar-Khejuriaghat Broad Gauge section of North-east Frontier Railway, the train engine dashed against one loaded bullock-cart at an unmanned level crossing. As a result, three persons on the bullock-cart received injuries one of whom subsequently succumbed to his injuries in the hospital on the same day and one of the two bullocks died at the spot.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

SHRI RAMPRASANNA RAY: May I know, Sir, whether the gate has since been closed to cart traffic?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: I am sorry I do not have that information.

SHRI RAMPRASANNA RAY: May I also know, Sir, whether Government is considering the question of giving some compensation to the families of the poor dead?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: That does not come under the Indian Railways Act. Under this, no claim for *ex gratia* payment or even for compensation can arise.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Is there no provision for compensation even in the case of fatal accidents?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: That does not come under the Indian Railways Act. It may come under the Fatal Accidents Act or Torts but they have to prove negligence on our part.

***382. [The questioner (Shri Sitaram Jaipuria) was absent. For answer, Vide col. 4073 infra.]**

**SUPPLY OF WAGONS FOR TRANSPORT OF
CHARCOAL AND TENDU LEAVES FROM
BALHARSHA AND MANCHERIAL**

*383. SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Government are aware of difficulties experienced by the forest contractors for securing wagons for transport of Charcoal and Tendu leaves from the Balharsha Railway Station (Central Railway) and the Mancherial Railway station (Central Railway);

(b) whether it is a fact that the trade in these commodities has come to a stand-still and consequently the traders have suffered a great loss; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to redress the grievances of the contractors?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) The Government is not aware of any difficulty