

SHRI ANSARUDDIN AHMAD: In view of the fact that the West Bengal Government Police have not as yet been able to come to any decision as to the cause of this accident in spite of all the help they received from their own forensic research laboratories, how are we to accept the Inspector's report?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: Anyway, the whole matter is under investigation by the D.I.G. Police, West Bengal. Let us await his report.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: I have not been able to catch the reply of the hon. Minister to part (a) of the question, *viz.*, whether the Government Inspector of Railways has submitted any preliminary report and, if so, what his conclusions are.

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: The answer to (a) is this: "Yes, Sir."

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Has the hon. Minister's attention been drawn to the newspaper report in West Bengal containing certain alleged findings of this enquiry?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: We are not fully aware of everything that goes on in newspapers. If anything is important, my hon. friend may draw the attention of the House to it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The hon. Minister should be certainly aware of what is appearing and being prominently featured in the newspapers about what is claimed to be the results of this enquiry. May I know, Sir, whether the Government have made enquiries from the State Government as to whether such reports are true?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: Again I submit that the question is very vague. Unless a specific question is asked, I may not be able to answer.

SHRI A. D. MANI: We would like to have a categorical statement from

the Minister on whether the Government Inspector of Railways has made any observation of the kind mentioned in part (a) of the question, namely, this was an act of sabotage. The enquiry might be going on, but if the preliminary finding has been given to the Government, will he give the information to the House?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: As per his provisional findings, the accident was due to removal of fish plates and fish bolts from a pair of joints and slewing the disjointed end of the rail panel to the extent of five inches by some persons unknown.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: From what the hon. Minister has said it would seem that the accident was due to sabotage because things had been removed, whereas certain forensic tests revealed that it was not so. What is the position actually?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: That is the question tabled and the answer to part (a) is: "Yes, Sir."

LIGHT BOXES IN PASSENGER TRAINS

*268. SHRI A. C. GILBERT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to equip all passenger trains with "light boxes" to help relief operations when accidents take place; and

(b) if so, by what time this proposal will be fully implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The equipment is being manufactured by the Railways and will be provided as soon as it is ready.

SHRI A. C. GILBERT: Would the Government give information about the nature of equipment in the light boxes and have the guards been trained for first aid work?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Yes, Sir. All guards are trained to render first aid. This equipment is for providing alternative arrangements for lighting in case of accidents and it will be ordinary battery fitted to bulbs.

श्री नवाबसिंह चौहान : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि जिस स्थान पर यह लाइट बाक्स लगाया जायेगा वहाँ क्या ऐसा कोई प्रयत्न किया जायेगा कि एक्सीडेंट होने पर उसको नुकसान न पहुँचे ? अगर खुद उस बाक्स को नुकसान पहुँच गया तो एक्सीडेंट के मौके पर लाइट व अन्य सहायता कैसे पहुँचेगी ?

श्री शाहनवाज खाँ : जी हाँ, ऐसा ख्याल रखा गया है। यह बाक्स ब्रैक बेन में रखा जायेगा और लकड़ी के बाक्स के अन्दर ये चीजें रखी जायेंगी।

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir, the Deputy Minister just now stated that the guards have been trained. Have they gone through a St. John's Ambulance Course in first aid or have they been trained ad hoc by the railway officers themselves?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: It forms part of their training to render first aid to the injured.

OPENING OF AGRICULTURAL CENTRES

*269. SHRI A. C. GILBERT: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Japan proposes to open a few agricultural centres in India during the current year; and

(b) if so, how many such centres are to be opened and how they will function?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): (a) and (b) The scheme for the setting up of Agricultural Centres with

the assistance of the Government of Japan, has not yet been finalised.

*270. to *272. [The questioner (Shri Niranjana Singh) was absent. For answers, vide cols. 1109-1111 infra.]

PATAHI AERODROME IN NORTH BIHAR

*273. SHRI R. P. N. SINHA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction of quarters attached to Patahi Aerodrome in North Bihar has been completed and whether an aerodrome officer has been posted at the aerodrome; and

(b) whether any decision has been taken to resume air-service between Patna and Muzaffarpur?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (DR. P. SUBBARAYAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Indian Airlines Corporation have no plans to air-link Muzaffarpur with Patna at present.

SHRI R. P. N. SINHA: Is the hon. Minister aware that when the land was made over by the State Government to the Union Government for the purpose of constructing a pucca aerodrome there, it was under the impression or on condition that the air link between Patna and Muzaffarpur would be restored? Is it not a fact that the then Communications Minister, who fortunately happens to be here in this House at the moment, was very enthusiastic about it and what has happened since then to put the matter into cold storage?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: I have already said that the Indian Airlines Corporation, after examining the traffic potential between these two stations, have felt that it will not be profitable to run the service.