

fact that our procedure for disciplinary action is such that it takes a long time, and by the time the punishment is awarded, many people have perhaps forgotten about the incident or the cause of the disciplinary action. We have from the Railway Board authorised the General Managers that in cases where safety rules have been ignored quick action may be taken, and some actions have been taken.

SHRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR: May I know whether the accidents are due to human failure because of increased strain or whether they are due to mechanical defects or due to other causes?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: As I have said, I am proposing to bring out a review of the accidents in which all these things have been explained in detail. After that the hon. Members will be in a better position to judge for themselves what are the causes.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: May I know by what date the review will be available?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I propose to submit that review during the course of this month.

DR. R. P. DUBE: The hon. Minister has just now said that he had authorised the General Managers of Railways to take action. I would request him to see that the district people who are really and directly responsible are given the necessary authority so that quick action can be taken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are suggesting action.

SHRIMATI T. NALLAMUTHU RAMAMURTI: What is the remedy that is to be sought for these procedural delays which endanger human lives and incapacitate whole families? I want an answer from the Minister.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: The rules for disciplinary action are complicated ones; so it takes time. We have in such cases authorised the General Managers to take quick action. I do not think in view of the provisions in the Constitution we can do away with what guarantee has been given to the civil servants.

DERAILMENT OF A PASSENGER TRAIN ON BHAVNAGAR-MAHUVA SECTION

*123. **SHRI J. H. JOSHI:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was derailment of a passenger train on Bhavnagar-Mahuva Section towards the end of May, 1958; and

(b) if so, what were the causes of the derailment?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) On 27th May 1958, while No. 500 Down Mixed train was on the run between Longdi and Datha Road stations on the Bhavnagar-Mahuva Narrow Gauge Section of the Western Railway, the fifth coach from the Engine derailed.

(b) Two fragments of stone, that had fallen from a ballast train earlier, came in contact with and derailed a pair of wheels of the coach mentioned.

SHRI J. H. JOSHI: Is the press report correct that the alarm chain did not work properly and the brake could not be applied soon with the result that the derailed carriages were dragged on the track for a long distance?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: That is not our information. The total damage to railway property in this accident was only Rs. 201. So it is obvious that the carriages were not dragged for any great distance.

SHRI J. H. JOSHI: Are the Government aware that there was a

river bridge only two furlongs ahead, and if the train had continued to move further with those carriages being dragged, the whole train would have toppled over the bridge into the river below, and the disaster would have been greater than the disaster of Chamraj?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: It is rather a hypothetical question.

DEATH OF BIRDS IN THE REGIONAL POULTRY FARMS IN DELHI

*124. SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the number of birds which died on account of the recent epidemics in the Regional Poultry Farms in Delhi?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): The total number of birds that died at the Delhi State Poultry Farm during the period from the 26th May to 23rd June, 1958 was 3,171. It is estimated that about 75 per cent. of the deaths were due to Ranikhet epidemic, while the remaining 25 per cent. were due to other causes like tick fever, heat stroke etc.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know if the birds were given any inoculation as a precautionary measure before they were admitted in this Farm?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: They were not admitted. They were born and brought up there all along. Every bird is vaccinated for Ranikhet and tick fever when two months old.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know the loss Government has incurred because of this epidemic in the birds?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Generally we do not calculate the loss or anything else. The chicks do not

thrive well in heat. About 25 per cent. of them are bound to die. This year there was extraordinary heat and not only chicks died in Delhi but men also died in that period due to sun-stroke and other causes. In this case, because they were imported varieties—their parents were imported from abroad, from America—it takes some time for these birds to acclimatise themselves to this heat and climate.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know what steps have been taken to ensure that such tragedies would not occur again in future and that such epidemics do not break out?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: In fact all poultry farmers in India live under the shadow of the Ranikhet disease, and now it has been completely controlled, because every bird is vaccinated for Ranikhet disease just when two months old, and it develops immunity for life. It is only in this case, because of some unusual circumstance this year, this unfortunate thing has happened.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know how far it is correct that a large number of birds were stolen but they have been reported as having died in the epidemic?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Again, it is a human failing. The disease seems to be deep. Something will have to be done radically.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMEN- DATIONS OF AGRICULTURAL PRICES EN- QUIRY COMMITTEE IN ANDAMANS

*125. SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether there is any scheme under Government's consideration to implement the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Enquiry Committee in the Andamans?