

four seater auto-rickshaws, two-seater auto-rickshaws and cycle-rickshaws licensed in Delhi is 623, 930 and 1427 respectively.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know whether there has been an increase in the number of auto-rickshaws recently?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: There has been some increase, especially in the two-seater rickshaws.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know if the Government has any proposal to give more licences to these two-seater auto-rickshaws as they are very much in demand?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Yes. The State Transport Department had proposed to give more licences to two-seater auto-rickshaws.

#### PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF WHEAT AND RICE

\*319. SHRI N. R. MALKANI (ON BEHALF OF SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM): Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the *per capita* consumption of wheat and rice in our country in relation to that of any other country of which Government possess information?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): Under conditions of decontrol and without a scientific survey on the consumption of cereals, it is difficult to assess correctly the *per capita* consumption of wheat and rice in the country. However, a statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha indicating *per capita* availability of wheat and rice as also other cereals during 1956-57 after making allowances on a rough approximate basis for seed, wastage etc. [See Appendix XIX, Annexure No. 38.] The statement also gives *per capita* consumption of cereals in some of the foreign countries as compiled by FAO for those years for which the information is available.

SHRI N. R. MALKANI: What efforts are made by Government to reduce

what is called wasteful consumption of rice, so far as cooking is concerned, so far as removal of bran is concerned? Are people's habits being altered? Is any effort being made in that direction?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: According to the Statement placed on the Table of the House the supply of rice is only 6·8 ounces as average consumption. Of course, it has been realised that more people are taking rice and that is not a very desirable development. But we are taking the necessary steps to popularise the other cereals also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question hour is over. Short notice question.

12 Noon

#### SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

##### DEATH OF WORKERS IN ACCIDENT AT ROURKELA

2. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an accident took place on or about the 22nd of November, 1957 while ditches were being dug for laying sewage pipes at the plant site of the Rourkela Steel Project resulting in the death of some workers;

(b) if so, what were the circumstances in which the accident took place and what were the actual casualties; and

(c) what precautionary measures had been taken in the course of the construction work against possible risks and what measures of safety are now being adopted to guard against recurrence of such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir. An accident occurred on the 22nd November in the Saecal Sewer in the plant site at Rourkela. Two persons were unfortunately killed. Both the workers were engaged

by the contractor—Modern Contractors Syndicate.

(b) A heavy crane passed by the site of the Sewer and a part of the site of the Sewer trenched on the road side collapsed and the earth slitted, burying the two workers. Another worker, working in the Sewer, was rescued.

(c) The contractor had put up shoring as a precautionary measure against possible collapse of the moorum soil. It is proposed to strengthen safety control measures further. No contractor will hereafter be allowed to carry out any trench work in depth exceeding 5 ft. until they obtain a written certificate from the Safety Officer after inspection of the safety measures taken.

**SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK:** May I know whether it is a fact that two similar accidents took place in similar circumstances in that very plant site of Rourkela in the course of one year?

**SARDAR SWARAN SINGH:** It is a fact, Sir, that two accidents have already taken place one on the 7th of June 1956 and the other on the 20th March, 1957. They were not on the plant site but in the township. But certain steps were taken as a result of those accidents. Unfortunately another accident has taken place and we have issued instructions to enforce the safety measures with great strictness.

**SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK:** May I know what were the casualties from these two accidents?

**SARDAR SWARAN SINGH.** The first accident took place on the 7th of June 1956 resulting in the death of five workers (one male and four girl labourers) and minor injuries to three workers. The accident took place at the site of the construction of the Sixteenth Septic Tank in the Labour Colony. A court of enquiry was held.

The second accident took place on the 20th of March 1957. The accident

happened while laying a sewerage line in Section 4 of the Township when the side wall of a trench about 9 ft. deep gave way and the labourers were trapped by the falling debris. As a result, one worker died on the spot and four workers were injured.

**SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK:** May I know, Sir, whether any responsibility has been fixed as a result of the findings of the court of enquiry and whether any enquiry is being made about the accident which occurred recently, on the 20th of March, 1957?

**SARDAR SWARAN SINGH:** With regard to the earlier accident, I have already submitted that a court of enquiry was constituted. The members of the enquiry committee were Shri B. R. Malhotra, Chief Engineer, and Shri K. Krishna Rao, Financial Adviser. The finding of the committee was that the engineering staff could not be held negligent as no evidence was advanced to warrant the conclusion that special precautions should have been taken before labourers went for work into the pit. The committee, however, made a number of recommendations to improve precautionary measures, and those precautionary measures were adopted.

With regard to the second accident which took place on the 20th of March a departmental enquiry order by the Managing Director was carried out by the Superintending Engineer, Construction, Shri C. S. T. Rao Sahib, the Town Administrator, Shri N. Rath and the Executive Engineer, Shri B. Pujari. The finding of the departmental enquiry was as follows:—

“The accident was due to absence of shoring in the trench. Under the contract, the contractor, viz. Messrs. Calcutta Construction Company, are required to provide adequate shoring in the trenches. In spite of written instructions from the Executive Engineer and Overseer concerned the contractor failed to provide shoring in the trench. The Departmental Enquiry Committee has fixed the responsibility for the accident on the

contractor. The contractor has been warned."

**SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK:** May I know, Sir, whether the Government are proposing to enforce the safety measures effectively in future?

**SARDAR SWARAN SINGH:** I venture to submit to that effect.

### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### AYURVEDIC HOSPITAL AND CLINIC FOR TESTING AYURVEDIC MEDICINES

\*306. **SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO:** Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state whether Government propose to set up an Ayurvedic Hospital and Clinic for the purpose of testing Ayurvedic medicines?

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR):** No, Sir. There is, however, a Central Institute of Research in Indigenous Systems of Medicine at Jamnagar where certain Ayurvedic medicines are tested with reference to the specific diseases which are taken up for research.

#### SOCIAL EDUCATION ORGANISERS' TRAINING INSTITUTIONS

\*311. **SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN:** Will the Minister of COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the institutions where Social Education Organisers are being trained;

(b) the expenditure incurred by Government in this connection during the year 1956-57; and

(c) the number of Social Education Organisers trained during the year 1956-57?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. K. DEY):**

(a) A list of the training centres for the training of Social Education Orga-

nisers is placed on the Table of the House.

(b) Rs. 10,41,700.

(c) 847.

#### *List of Training Centres where Social Education Organisers are being trained*

- (1) Social Education Organisers' Training Centre, P. O. Agricultural Institute, Allahabad.
- (2) Social Education Organisers' Training Centre, Nilokheri (District Karnal) (Punjab).
- (3) Social Education Organisers' Training Centre, Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan.
- (4) Social Education Organisers' Training Centre, Himayat-sagar, Hyderabad-Dn.
- (5) Social Education Organisers' Training Centre, Gandhigram (District Madurai).
- (6) Social Education Organisers' Training Centre, Ramakrishna Mission, Belur Math (Distt. Howrah).
- (7) Social Education Organisers' Training Centre, Vidya Bhawan Society, Udaipur (Rajasthan).
- (8) Social Education Organisers' Training Centre, The M. S. University of Baroda, Baroda, (Bombay).
- (9) Social Education Organisers' Training Centre, Shri Mouni Vidyapeeth, Gargoti (Distt. Kolhapur) (Bombay)—Started in 1957-58 (August, 1957).
- (10) Social Education Organisers' Training Centre, Shri Rama Krishna Vidyalaya, Coimbatore (Madras)—Started in 1957-58 (August, 1957).
- (11) Social Education Organisers' Training Centre, Kasturba Gram, Gandhi National Memorial Trust, Indore—Started in 1957-58 (August, 1957).