

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: As I have said, Sir, the matter is still under investigation.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN: May I know, Sir, whether the Government is aware of the fact that about Rs. 50 lakhs worth of goods are frozen in transit, and the entire industry will be crippled if the Government takes a longer time to take a decision in the matter?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I think, Sir, human lives are more valuable than Rs. 50 lakhs, and we will have to take ample precautions and will see whether these goods are to be released or are to be destroyed.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know whether all these consignments have been booked by one and the same person, and if not, may I know who are the persons who have booked these consignments?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: It is not by one and the same person. It is by different parties, but all from Sivakasi and a few from others, for example the Lakshmi Cape Works, the South India Paper Cape Industries, the National Fireworks, the Muthuswami Fire Industries. These are the important ones.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SMUGGLING OF MILK POWDER

*547. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that milk powder is smuggled into Bombay City from Madras by rail by being booked as article admissible for booking; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to prevent such smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) There were three such cases detected by Railways in 1956 and 2 in 1957 up to 24th August, 1957.

(b) The prevention of such smuggling is essentially a matter for the State Government who have imposed the ban. However, Railway inspecting officials have been instructed to make surprise checks at stations and to examine packages offered for booking, if suspected to contain milk powder.

UNSPENT BALANCE OF ACCOUNT UNDER CENTRAL ROAD FUND IN MADRAS

*553. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of unspent balance in the account of the State of Madras in the Central Road Fund on 31st March, 1957;

(b) whether there is any co-ordination between the Centre and the State in the expeditious utilisation of the Fund; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to devise and utilise promptly the unspent balance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Rs. 78.14 lakhs.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The utilisation of the balance is the concern of the State Government. The position is, however, reviewed by the Government every year and the State Government are asked to expedite the utilisation of the balance, if necessary.

ALLOTMENT OF QUARTERS FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

*554. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allotment of quarters in railway colonies is restricted only to those categories of railway employees who are classified as Essentials;

(b) whether any exception in this regard is made in the case of women employees; and

(c) whether Government propose to grant such exemption to Harijans also in certain cases?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) Allotment of quarters in railway colonies is open to all categories of railway employees but first preference in allotment of quarters is given to essential staff.

(b) No.

(c) No.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS IN SAURASHTRA

*570. SHRI M. B. JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many accidents occurred in the Saurashtra region on Western Railway during the months of May, June and July 1957;

(b) which are the places where the accidents occurred and what are the causes of the accidents;

(c) how many persons died and how many were injured in these accidents; and

(d) what is the extent of damage done to the railway property?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix XVIII, Annexure No. 119.]

Of the accidents shown in the statement, the one which occurred between a goods train and a light engine on the Salangpur-Botad Section on 25th July 1957 (item 12 of the statement) alone resulted in one killed and two injured of which one was grievous. The damage to Railway property in this case was Rs. 2,72,850.

LOANS SANCTIONED TO ERSTWHILE STATE OF HYDERABAD FOR REPAIR OF TANKS

*571. DR. R. B. GOUR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any loans were sanctioned by Government during the First Five Year Plan period to the erstwhile State of Hyderabad for repair of tanks;

(b) if so, how this amount was paid; and

(c) how many tanks have been repaired with that amount?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN): (a) Yes. A loan of Rs. 98.43 lakhs was sanctioned to the State Government.

(b) The amount was paid to the State Government by quarterly advances based on the request of the State and with reference to progress of the scheme and actual requirements.

(c) 1,329,

RELIEF TO LONG-DISTANCE THIRD CLASS PASSENGERS

*572. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are under contemplation by Government to provide relief to long-distance third Class passengers in the Indian Railways; and

(b) if so, what are those steps?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) and (b). On one pair of long-distance Janta trains on each Zonal Railway, arrangements are being made, on an experimental basis, for separate accommodation to be earmarked for passengers travelling over the following distance.

0 to 150 miles
151 to 300 miles
301 to 500 miles
and over 500 miles.