

(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.