

should know that it is a Standing Committee. It functions from week to week, from month to month. As many as 180 meetings of this Committee have been held.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is satisfied

RAILWAY ACCIDENT NEAR CHATA RAILWAY STATION

*38 SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether a railway accident took place in the morning of June 22 1957, near Chata Railway Station, about 70 miles south-east of Delhi; if so—

(a) what is the number of passengers injured;

(b) what is the extent of loss to railway property; and

(c) what was the cause of the accident?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes; 3 persons received grievous and 44 minor injuries.

(b) The approximate cost of damage to Railway property was Rs. 25,900.

(c) According to the provisional finding of the Government Inspector the collision was caused by No. 3 Dn. Pathankot Express passing the reception signals at Chata station at danger.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know if similar accidents took place on the 24th July 1957 at Tatanagar and on the 23rd July at Liloah Station where 54 passengers were injured and 2 passengers were killed respectively also with great loss to the railways?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: It is true that a number of accidents of a similar nature did take place.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know the steps taken so far to avoid

collisions and restore confidence amongst passengers?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: When a driver passes the signal at danger, there is very little that the administration can do except to educate the people, to keep them up to date and advise them to be on the alert all the time. Enquiries are conducted and if anybody survives the accident, then deterrent action is taken against the man who ignores signals.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Because of the increasing inefficiency and lack of supervision, the danger to passengers and loss to railways is increasing. If so, what action has been taken in the year 1957?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: I am afraid I do not agree with the conclusion of the hon. Member. I may submit that the number of accidents on the whole is on the decrease.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know if any compensation has been paid to the victims of this accident and, if so, what is the maximum and the minimum amount?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: In this case, the Divisional District Magistrate, Mathura, is the *ex-officio* Claims Commissioner. As far as I am aware, no claims have been submitted to him, and he will decide when the claims are submitted to him.

SHRI D. A. MIRZA: May I know whether the hon. Minister would consider the advisability of introducing an insurance scheme on the railways?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: No, Sir.

SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN: The hon. Minister said that the number of accidents has decreased. May I know the number of accidents that took place in 1956 and in these eight months of 1957 so that we may know

whether the accidents are on the increase or on the decrease, and also the amount of damage to the railways and the extent of injury to passengers, together with the number of deaths?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: It is a very comprehensive question. If the hon. Member gives separate notice, I will give a reply.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: May I know whether any action has been taken against the guilty persons?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Action is taken where it is considered proper. If it is a case for prosecution, prosecution is launched. If it is a case for disciplinary action, disciplinary action is taken.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: In all cases which the hon. Member has enumerated just now?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: As soon as the final report of the Government Inspector is received, we do take prompt action. We have not received the reports as yet.

*39 to *41. [The questioner (*Shri M. Valiulla*) was absent. For answer vide cols. 246—249 infra.]

हाल की इन्फ्लूएंजा महामारी का कारण

*४२. श्री नवाब सिंह चौधरी : क्या स्वास्थ्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या सरकार को सूचना है कि पिछले जून मास के तीसरे सप्ताह में दिल्ली में हुई अखिल भारतीय यूनानी तथा तिब्बती कान्फरेंस के प्रधान ने देश व्यापी इन्फ्लूएंजा रोग का कारण वायुमंडल की रेडियो सक्रियता बताया है ; यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने इस सम्बन्ध में कुछ जानकारी कराई है ?

t [CAUSE OF RECENT INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC

*42. SHRI NAWAB SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the President of the All India Unani and Tibbi Conference held in the third week of June last at Delhi has expressed the opinion that the radioactivity in the atmosphere was the cause of the countrywide influenza epidemic? If so, have Government made any enquiries in this regard?

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री (श्री डी. पी. कर्मकर) :

मालूम हुआ है कि अखिल भारतीय यूनानी तथा तिब्बती कान्फरेंस के प्रधान ने आणविक परीक्षणों के विकिरण और इन्फ्लूएंजा के फैलने के परस्पर-सम्बन्ध के विषय में राथमस्टेड एक्सपेरिमेंटल स्टेशन के वायो-केमिस्ट्री विभाग के अध्यक्ष डा० नार्मन पाइरी का अभिमत उद्धृत किया है। वर्तमान महामारी के साथ आणविक विस्फोटों का सम्बन्ध स्थापित करने के लिये वैज्ञानिक आधार-सामग्री उपलब्ध नहीं है।

[THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : The President of the All India Unani and Tibbi Conference is reported to have quoted the opinion expressed by Dr. Norman Pirie, Head of the Biochemistry Department of Rothamsted Experimental Station, regarding the possible correlation between fall out from nuclear tests and outbreak of influenza. Scientific data are not available to connect the nuclear explosions with the present epidemic]

DR. R. B. GOUR: What steps did they take to collect this scientific data? Whom did they approach?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: We have a huge Ministry. It has got scientific 'experts'. They gather knowledge from 'everywhere'. We do not depute specially somebody to study the problem; anywhere, but on the strength of the material available, we base our **opinion**.

†English translation.