

imposed and the work of strengthening those arches or replacing them has either already been taken up or is going to be taken up shortly.

SHRI D. A. MIRZA: Are there any more unfortunate bridges in India where the speed limit is restricted?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: There may be a few others, but I have not got the information of all the bridges.

#### **RAILWAY ACCIDENTS IN SAURASHTRA**

♦102. SHRI MAGANLAL B. JOSHI: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many accidents occurred in Saurashtra on the Western Railway during the last two years;

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

(c) what was, the total estimated loss of railway property due to these accidents; and

(d) what was the total amount of money spent by Government towards the repairs to railway property; and for the payment of compensation, if any?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (d). A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

#### **STATEMENT**

(a) 147 train accidents occurred on the Saurashtra portion of the Western Railway during the two years 1955-56 and 1956-57. (Tram accidents comprise accidents to trains due to collisions, derailments, averted collisions, parting of trains, trams passing signals at danger, reception of trains on blocked lines, trains running into road traffic at level crossings, fires in trains, trains running without line clear and trams running without proper line clear.)

(b) Killed: 21. (7 Passengers and 14 other persons such as occupants of road vehicles etc.)

Injured: 66. (37 passengers, 4 railway servants and 25 other persons such as occupants of road vehicles etc.)

(c) Rs. 1,97,931.

(d) The estimated loss of railway property given in reply to part (c) includes money spent on repairs to railway property.

No compensation has been paid so far.

SHRI MAGANLAL B. JOSHI: Which was the biggest mishap during this period?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: The worst accident was the derailment of 340 Down Rajkot-Okha between Hegamatia and Jamwanthali on the 19th May 1956.

DR. R. B. GOUR: Was it the worst in Saurashtra or in the country as a whole?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: The worst in Saurashtra.

SHRI MAGANLAL B. JOSHI: How many persons were killed in this particular accident?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: In this accident seven were killed and 28 were injured.

SHRI MAGANLAL B. JOSHI: Has any compensation been paid to any of them?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: The question of claims for compensation is dealt with by the Claims Commissioner. No compensation has been actually paid so far, but the matter is being dealt with by the Claims Commissioner.

SHRI MAGANLAL B. JOSHI: Are any cases pending for compensation?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Yes.

SHRI MAGANLAL B. JOSHI: How many applications have been made?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has not got all that information.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: We do not receive applications for claims. There are the Claims Commissioners and they settle the claims. As soon as the claims are settled by the Claims Commissioner we make the payment.

DR. D. H. VARIAVA: What were the causes of the accidents in Saurashtra?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: The cause of the accident to which I have just referred was the spread of gauge.

DR. D. H. VARIAVA: What were the causes of all the accidents? There were many accidents, not one.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question hour is over.

#### SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

##### AIRCRAASH NEAR SARASPUR HILL AT HAILAKANDI IN CACHAR

4. SHRI S. C. DEB: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an aircraft of Air Freight Service of Air Assam Party took place near Saraspur Hill at Hailakandi in the district of Cachar on the 5th May 1957 after its taking off from the Kumbhigram Airport;

(b) if so, what was the cause of the accident and whether any enquiry has been conducted in the matter; and

(c) what was the number of persons in the plane including the crew and whether there was any loss of life?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR): (a) Yes, Sir, An aircraft of the Indian Airlines Corporation operating a freighter service from Kunv

bhigram to Calcutta on the 5th May 1957 crashed at a distance of about 42 miles from Kumbhigram.

(b) The accident is under investigation by the Chief Inspector of Accidents, Civil Aviation Department. No definite information about the cause of the accident can be given until the report of the Chief Inspector has been received and examined.

(c) The aircraft carried a crew of three and no passengers. One of the members of the crew was killed as a result of the accident.

12 NOON

SHRI S. C. DEB: Was any rescue party sent when the accident occurred and may I know whether there is any such arrangement there in Kumbhigram aerodrome?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: A rescue party was sent the very next morning but because of bad weather the party could not get to the place. But the wreckage of the aircraft was spotted by the Superintendent of Police, Cachar, and the survivors were removed almost immediately to a local hospital in Hailakandi and later to Silchar. Since then they have been brought to the Presidency Hospital in Calcutta. One is out of danger and the other is also responding to treatment. Regarding arrangements at Kumbhigram, we do not have adequate arrangements there. It is not possible to have all the necessary arrangements at many of the small wayside stations but whatever local ambulances can be provided are provided.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know whether the villagers rushed to the place to rescue the crew?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: We have received information to that effect and actually it was the services of the villagers and of a school teacher which was responsible perhaps for saving the life of two of the crew.