

submitted by the Accidents Enquiry Committee?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The figures that I have before me support the statement I have made.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: I just want to know whether it is a fact or not that the Accidents Enquiry Committee appointed by the Government mentioned the fact in clear and categorical terms that the number of accidents, that the intensity of the accidents in these Railways is just double that of the Railways in the South. I want to know whether they have mentioned it or not.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The figures that I have go to show that accidents on these three railways have been less in number than on the other Railways. As far as what is mentioned in the Report goes, I should like to make a reference to it and then only answer. I do not have the report before me.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: What are the reasons for greater intensity of accidents on these railways?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says that it is more. He has not accepted the statement that it is nearly double.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: If it is not double, what is the actual state of affairs?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: These figures relate to all categories of accidents.

Group of Railways—Eastern,
Northern and North Eastern.

1953-54—No. of accidents—4,825.

Other Railways—Central, Southern
and Western.

1953-54—No. of accidents—6,376.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know whether any safety device to avert the accidents has been taken by the Railway Administration during the current year or the last year?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, this subject of accidents has been a matter of thorough enquiry by successive Committees and I only wish to inform the House that all the recommendations made by the reviewing Committee have been accepted. Action on all these recommendations has been taken.

RAIL LINK BETWEEN NOAMUNDI AND JODA IN ORISSA

*297. **SHRI S. MAHANTY:** Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish a rail link between Noamundi and Joda in Orissa;

(b) whether any alternative suggestion for rail link in this area had been considered by Government;

(c) whether the ex-Bengal Nagpur Railway Administration and the authorities of the ex-Keonjhar State had opposed the present scheme for linking Noamundi and Joda; and

(d) if so, on what grounds?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) A proposal to establish a rail link from Noamundi to Bhadrasai or near about is under examination.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). The ex-B. N. Railway Administration who had examined the proposal for construction of Noamundi-Joda line in 1951 considered that the proposal was unremunerative. The Government is unable to trace any correspondence on this subject with the ex-Keonjhar State.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know, Sir, what is the alternative link that has been suggested to the Government?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The final location survey has been ordered for

a connection between Noamundi and Bhadrasai.

PROF. G. RANGA: How many miles?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I think it is about 14 miles, if I remember correctly.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: What will be the final definite route? Has Government arrived at any decision?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: We have not yet arrived at any decision. In fact, the General Manager of Eastern Railway visited the area some time back and he has suggested that it should be Noamundi-Banspani and not Bhadrasai. This will connect Bhadrasai also, but it would go up to Banspani. All these are under examination.

NATIONAL RICE COMMISSION

*298. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a National Rice Commission;

(b) whether a conference of the International Rice Commission is to be held in India;

(c) the names of the member countries of the International Rice Commission; and

(d) what are the matters (i) which will be dealt with by the National Rice Commission, and (ii) which are dealt with by the International Rice Commission?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) Yes, but presently as an *ad hoc* body.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

STATEMENT

- (c) Australia
Burma
Cambodia
Ceylon
Cuba
Dominican Republic
Egypt
Ecuador
France
India
Iran
Indonesia
Italy
Japan
Korea
Laos
Mexico
Netherlands
Portugal
Pakistan
Paraguay
Philippines
Thailand
United Kingdom
U.S.A.
Viet Nam.

(d) (i) The question is under consideration. The chief function will, however, be to make preparations for the holding of the next session of the International Rice Commission in India.

(ii) The functions of the International Rice Commission are—

(a) keeping under review the scientific, technical and economic problems that bear upon the object of the Commission as stated in article 1, *viz.*, to promote national and international action with respect to production, conservation, distribution and consumption of rice, except matters relating to international trade;

(b) encouraging and co-ordinating research on the above-mentioned problems and promoting its practical application;