

ME. CHAIRMAN: Serious or ordinary?

SHRI B. RATH: All combined.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: It is for the Minister to decide.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: In the list of train accidents that I have before me, they are not there. Evidently it is minor.

*97. [The questioner (Shri T. S. Pattabiraman) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 859-860 infra.]

*98. [The questioner (Shri T. S. Pafthbiraman) was absent. For an swer. vide cols. 860-861 infra.]

*99. [For answer, vide col. 853 infra.]

*100. [For answer, vide col. 854 infra.]

*101. For answer, vide col. 855 infra.]

AUTOMATIC INSURANCE OF AIR PASSENGERS

*102. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring into force a scheme of automatic insurance of all air passengers;

(b) if so. the particulars of the scheme; and

(c) the agency through which the scheme will be implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) A proposal to introduce a scheme of insurance for all passengers travelling on the internal scheduled air services is under consideration.

(b) and (c). It is too early yet for me to give details of the scheme.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Have Government come to the conclusion

after examination that the scheme could be worked profitably?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, I have already submitted that a proposal to introduce a scheme is under consideration.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know whether any other foreign State has any such scheme?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: So far as the international airlines are concerned, we are governed by what is known as the Warsaw Convention under which under certain circumstances the victims are paid an award of compensation to the tune of 125,000 gold francs or Rs. 40,000.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: Is the air company required to pay any compensation for loss of life due to any accident?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The question has been replied.

CLAIMS FOR DAMAGE AND SHORTAGE OF FOOD GRAINS ON SHIPS

*108. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount claimed from ship owners for losses on account of shortage and damage of food grains in transit on their ships:

(b) the amount expected to be recovered:

(c) whether any claims have become time-barred; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, the total amount of such claims?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): (a) A statement showing the information for the last four completed financial years is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, Annexure No. 4d]

(b) All claims which can be enforced against the steamer owners under the Carriage of Goods by Sea Act are duly pressed and realized.

(c) and (d). In the past, claims were filed in all cases as a matter of routine and sometimes the plea of limitation was taken by the shippers. Cases which are tenable under the Charter Party and Bill of Lading are not, however, allowed to get time-barred by limitation.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know how many cases were filed against the ship owners?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: About the number of cases I want notice. I can give the amount realized.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: What is the amount realized?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: We have realized in 1949-50 about Rs. 41,000, in 1951-52 about Rs. 17,000 and in 1952-53 about Rs. 10,000.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: In 1949-50 and 1950-51 under the column "Balance still under settlement with steamer owners" it is shown as nil. May I take it that the amounts concerned have been realized in those two cases?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: There is some difference here in this account; that is, actually on the tenable basis, we have realized the amount. If a steamer owner carries food grains in bulk, there he never agrees to pay the compensation in case of shortage because he says that it is due to natural causes that shortages occur—due to natural evaporation—whereas when the same lot comes in bags if there is some shortage in bags, we claim and such claims have been realized. It is that account that has been shown.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: I find from the Estimates Committee Report—which I trust has come to the notice of the government—that Rs. 225 and odd lakhs have been incurred over

short-landing in 1949-50 and 1950-51. May I know whether any amount has been recovered towards this loss?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: That is a thing which no steamer company agrees to pay. They say that it is governed by international conventions. When food grains are transported from America to India, it takes two months sometimes to reach India. In the course of these 60 days sometimes by natural evaporation alone the grain will reduce by itself in weight and we will have to allow a margin of 1 to 2 per cent, in some cases.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know if this point, viz., that these losses are due to natural drying, was put to the Estimates Committee, because going through the Report, I do not realize that the Estimates Committee were of that opinion or that point has come to their notice at all? Did the Food and Agriculture Ministry bring it to the notice of that Committee that this loss is due to evaporation?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: A note was prepared and given to the Estimates Committee and a copy of it can be placed on the Table of the House or supplied to the hon. Member.

EQUIPMENT FOR DEEP SEA FISHING

*104. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the equipment now available with Government for deep sea fishing;

(b) the experience gained in the work so far done; and

(c) whether technical opinion has been obtained with regard to the utility of deep sea fishing?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): (a) and (b). A