

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Is this subsidy paid from the General Revenues or from the Match Excise Duty?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I would like to have notice.

PROF. G. RANGA: Is it the policy of the Government to raise as much of this match wood in this country as possible?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Yes, Sir.

PROF. G. RANGA: Do they make any distinction between one State and another, according to their suitability, or they give subsidy without any distinction?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: It is for the State Governments to come up with their schemes.

DR. S. K. BHUYAN: May I have the figures with regard to Assam?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: It is Rs. 7-15-10 and the area is 750 acres.

ACCIDENT ON THE SOUTHERN RAILWAY

***385. KUMARI SHOILA BALA DAS:** Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many persons were killed in the railway accident which occurred on the Southern Railway on the 13th June 1953;

(b) whether any compensation has been paid to the families of the persons killed, if so, the amount thereof and the number of families compensated;

(c) whether any enquiry into the cause of the accident has been instituted; and

(d) whether steps have been taken to avoid the recurrence of such accidents?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) 67.

(b) No amount has so far been paid to the families of the persons killed. However, twenty claims have been settled by the Claims Commissioner and the amounts awarded in connection with them is Rs. 51,500 which is under payment.

(c) Yes. The Government Inspector of Railways, Bangalore, held his statutory enquiry into the accident and his finding is that the accident was the result of a lapse on the part of the Assistant Station Master, Mulacalacheruvu in that he wrongly dispatched the mixed train from his station.

(d) Yes.

KUMARI SHOILA BALA DAS: Sir, may I know the rate at which each family was paid?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I do not have here the individual amounts, but the total amount settled in these 20 cases from among the 67 is Rs. 51,500. The Claims Commission is proceeding with this work.

PROF. G. RANGA: Have any arrangements been made to make some interim payments to those Railway employees who have been killed, in order to enable their families to attend to the functions and other things?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, as far as I am aware, no interim payment is being made, but the final payment itself is being expedited and it will be paid soon. It is already under payment.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : May I know, Sir, whether there was any interlocking device in that station in which the accident occurred?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Communications failed on this section before the accident took place.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Was there any interlocking device there?

SHRIMATI MAYA DEVI CHETTRY: May I know, Sir, whether any

passenger became invalid after the accident occurred?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, Sir, there were many persons who were seriously injured also, but medical treatment was given to them immediately and they were properly looked after.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: May I know, Sir, the action taken by the Government to avoid such accidents? In reply to part (c) it is said that the accident took place due to a lapse on the part of the Assistant Station Master. What action has actually been taken by the Government in this connection?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, when the communications failed on this section, it was the system known as "Proceed Certificate and Next Train Advice Memo" that was put into operation. But there is another system also which is safer, and which is called "The Pilot Guard System". We are thinking whether it can be universally applied on all the Railways. Pending that, we have introduced certain rules which may be observed—provision of a joint check by the Guard and the Station Master before signing the "Proceed Certificate", and we have issued the instructions that the "Proceed Certificate" should not be prepared earlier than necessary, and so on and so forth. These are some of the steps taken for the time being.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: The hon. Minister said that communications failed. But my question was whether there was any interlocking device there.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: On that line there was none.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: No, Sir, there was no interlocking device on that line. But the system known as 'Block System' prevails there.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact that if interlocking devices are introduced, these serious accidents can be minimised to a great extent?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: That is true but it is being done on a programme basis.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: Is the hon. Minister aware that in the interlocking system, until the incoming train comes in and brings in the locking arrangement, the outgoing train cannot start? And if the hon. Minister is aware that under the interlocking system no accident is possible, will he consider the introduction of this arrangement on this section of the railway?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I have already answered the question.

PROF. G. RANGA: May I know if the Government is considering the issue of a posthumous award to the Assistant Driver who was found to be still using the brake? It was a great heroic act.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I cannot say, but it can be gone into.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know whether any differentiation is made in the payment of compensation?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I do not think that any such differentiation is made.

DR. P. C. MITRA: On what basis is it made, is it on a flat basis or a sliding basis?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I cannot give details. The Claims Commissioner who is the final authority goes into all these things, and if anybody has got a grievance, he can go to the High Court.

INDIAN LAVATORIES IN RAILWAY TRAINS

*386. KUMARI SHOILA BALA DAS: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi-Calcutta Mail and the Toofan Express trains are