

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : May I know whether Government thinks it advisable to convert the schools into technical training schools in the new set up ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : Each case has to be examined and then only it can be done. All these schools cannot be converted into technical schools.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : Are there any technical training schools run by the Railways ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : I don't think.

SHRI D. NARAYAN : Is Bible compulsorily taught in some of the railway schools ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : I am not aware of any such thing.

GOVERNMENT DEBT LIABILITIES ON PURCHASE OF RAILWAYS

*246. SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what are Government debt liabilities on purchase of Railways abroad ; and

(b) how many Railways, foreign owned and foreign managed, are still there in India ; whether Government propose to purchase them ; if so, when ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT

(SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN) : (a) The debt liabilities on this account as outstanding on 31st March, 1952 amounted to Rs. 858 lakhs roundly.

(b) Only one, namely the Barsi Light Railway. Government is considering the question of purchasing this line on 1st January, 1954.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : May I know whether all the capital invested in the Barsi Railway is British ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : Yes—it is foreign owned railway at present.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : When is their contract terminating ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : We can give one year's notice and take over.

The contract terminates on the 1st January next.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA : How many Railways are still being run by companies and what is their total strength ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : This is the only foreign owned railway. There are other small railways which are owned by District Boards.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA : I did not ask for foreign owned railways. I asked for the railways that are being run by private companies now.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : The question refers to railways owned by companies abroad.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE : Is it not a fact that Martin and Co. wants some of these light railways to be treated as Indian owned railways and not as foreign owned railways ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : The question refers to debt liabilities on purchase of railways abroad.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS

*247. SHRI M. VALIULLA : Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of railway accidents in India from April, 1952 to the end of November, 1952 ;

(b) the causes for each of those accidents ; and

(c) the extent of loss of human life involved in these accidents ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT

(SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN) : (a) Nine serious accidents *i.e.*, accidents to trains carrying passengers attended with loss of human life and/or grievous hurt and/or damage to property to the value of