

them but the Government of India and the Railway Board would not purchase the same on the ground that the prices were high, and the Andaman Government shipped a lot of timber or used to ship a lot of timber to foreign countries?

Shri Jagjivan Ram No, Sir Very recently, we have sent an officer to the Andamans and we have explored the possibility of the maximum supply from the Andamans. We are going to get a few lakhs from there.

Shri Ranga Now there were two answers given by the hon Minister of Railways and the hon Deputy Minister. Arising out of the answer given by the Deputy Minister are we to understand that although the price of imported sleepers is higher than the price at which we can obtain them from our State Governments, the Government have preferred to import these things and expend their foreign exchange?

Shri Jagjivan Ram No Sir that is not the position. The position as I have explained is this. After exploiting all the available ripe timber at present in the country, the requirements of the Railways will not be completely met. Even though the price of imported sleepers is higher than the indigenous sleepers we have in the circumstance to import them even at a higher price.

Shri Ranga May we have an assurance that the Government are not turning down any offer made by the State Governments to supply sleepers simply because the price which some of the State Governments demand is higher than the price at which they can obtain it from other States in our country?

Shri Jagjivan Ram We are prepared to accept every sleeper available in the country we will not refuse a single one.

Railway Accident at Chata Station

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*180. { **Shri Raghunath Singh:**
Shri P. C. Bose:
Shri D. V. Rao:
Shri R. J. Rao:
Shri Vajpayee:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether there was a Railway accident at Chata Station on the Central Railway on the 22nd June, 1957 involving heavy casualties and

(b) if so the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (**Shri Shahnawaz Khan**) (a) and (b) On 22nd June 1957 at about 4-30 hours No 3 Down Pathankot Express on its way from Mathura to Delhi, while approaching Chata station, entered the Up Main line and collided head on with No W 20 Up Goods train which was coming on the same Up Main line in the opposite direction. Three persons received grievous injuries and 44 received minor or trivial injuries.

Shri Raghunath Singh Was there any enquiry and if so what was the result of the enquiry?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan An enquiry was held by the Government Inspector of Railways.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Light Railways

*171 **Shri Jhulan Sinha** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) the names of the light railways in the country and the route mileage, capital investment and rough estimate of their recurring expenditure per annum

(b) whether the public inconvenience and discontent with the working of these Railways have come to the knowledge of Government, and