

RAILWAY STORES

*1381. **Shri Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the book value of the total balance of Railway stores as at the end of 31st March, 1952;

(b) the book value of the Stores issued during the financial year 1951-52; and

(c) the book value of the Stores transferred as scrap and the difference in value between the two?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Rs. 61.10 crores. This is only a provisional figure as the final accounts for the year ended 31st March 1952 are not yet due to be closed.

(b) Rs. 92.83 crores provisionally.

(c) Book value Rs. 1.68 lakhs and the difference Rs. 1.40 lakhs.

TRANSPORT ADVISORY COUNCIL

*1382. **Shri Kandasamy:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the main recommendations of the Transport Advisory Council;

(b) whether Government have accepted them; and

(c) if so, the delay in approving the above recommendations?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) A summary of the conclusions reached at the 12th meeting of the Transport Advisory Council held in April 1951 is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 5.] The main recommendations related to the report of the Motor Vehicle Taxation Enquiry Committee.

(b) and (c). The report of the Motor Vehicle Taxation Enquiry Committee covers a wide field affecting direct and indirect taxes on road transport users in the Central as well as State sphere. The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration in consultation with the State Governments. The views of some of the State Governments are still awaited.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS

*1383. **Shri Kandasamy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway accidents in Southern Railway in the year 1950-51 and 1951-52;

(b) the number of deaths and persons injured; and

(c) the amount of compensation paid?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Two serious accidents in 1950-51 and one in 1951-52.

(b) One killed and 30 injured in 1950-51 and none killed and 2 injured in 1951-52.

(c) No compensation was paid to passengers or their dependants under the Indian Railways Act, as no such claims were received in 1950-51 and the two small claims received in 1951-52 were not entertainable. One claim under the Workmen's Compensation Act on behalf of a Railway employee was, however, received and paid in 1950-51.

SAHARANPUR-SHAHDARA LIGHT RAILWAY

*1384. **Shri K. R. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what agency is running the Saharanpur Shahdara Light Railway;

(b) when the term of agreement of that agency expires;

(c) whether Government are aware of the state of management of this Railway; and

(d) whether Government propose to take over the management of the Railway at an early date?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) The Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway Co., Ltd., whose Managing Agents are M/s. Martin Burn Ltd., Calcutta.

(b) On 18th April, 1955, provided Government exercises the option to purchase the line by giving one year's notice.

(c) Some complaints about unsatisfactory management of this railway were received last year but on investigation it was found that the main difficulty was overcrowding, as the increase in passenger stock did not keep pace with increase in passenger traffic as on all Indian Railways.

(d) Not before the next option date