

RAILWAY ACCIDENT AT LALKUAN

*1385. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 8 Up Nainital Express ran into a stationary passenger train at Lalkuan station near Kathgodam on the North Eastern Railway on the 14th June, 1952;

(b) if so, what are the casualties and damage to public and private property;

(c) the reasons which led to the accident; and

(d) Who are the persons responsible for the accident?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri):
(a) Yes.

(b) Two passengers in 8 Up Express were slightly injured. The approximate cost of damage to railway property was Rs. 300. There was no damage to public property.

(c) Admission of 8 Up Express on a line already occupied by 158 Down Passenger. *Prima facie* it is understood to be a case of wrong setting of points.

(d) This will be known when the proceedings of the enquiry held into the accident have been finalised.

CHAKIA-SIDHAWALLIA RAILWAY LINE

*1386. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for construction of a railway line from Chakia to Sidhawallia in near future; and

(b) if so, when the construction work will start?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri):
(a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) Does not arise.

RAKES

308. **Shri Deogam:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the following sidings where two rakes are placed for *pro rata* distribution can accommodate three rakes after leaving out the *pro rata* share of Bird and Co., and the Tata Iron Steel Co. Ltd. which are placed on their assisted sidings:—

(i) Barajamda Public ore loading siding;

(ii) Noamundi Public Siding;

(iii) Barbil Branch Public loading siding (i.e. 3A, siding of Barbil); and

(iv) Joint assisted siding of Tulloch, Lodha, K. N. Ram, C.P.M.O., Mc. Dill and Sarda at Barbil?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): Yes, the total capacity of all these sidings put together permits of the loading of a third train, subject, of course, to wagon availability.

संविहित और असंविहित राशन-व्यवस्था

३०९. श्री एन० एल० जोशी : क्या साक्ष तथा कृषी मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) भारत में विविध राज्यों के ३,००० से अधिक जनसंख्या वाले ऐसे नगरों की संख्या जिन में संविहित और असंविहित राशन व्यवस्था चल रही है;

(ख) ऊपर भाग (क) में निर्दिष्ट नगरों की मध्यमान जनसंख्या क्या है ;

(ग) भारत में विविध राज्यों के ३००० से कम जनसंख्या वाले ऐसे गांवों की संख्या, जिन में नियंत्रित दामों पर खाद्यान्नों के वितरण की व्यवस्था है ; और

(घ) ऊपर भाग (ग) में निर्दिष्ट गांवों की मध्यमान जनसंख्या ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The total number of towns in India statutorily and non-statutorily rationed according to latest available information is 302 and 1,202 respectively.

(b) The average ration-card population of these towns is 107,281 and 24,295 respectively.

(c) The total number of villages covered by Government distribution is 156,459. Information relating to villages with population less than 3,000 only is not separately available.

(d) The average ration-card population of these villages is 346.