

Rs. 18.6 lakhs, with an anticipated return of 5 per cent. The present-day cost is likely to be 12 to 15 times as much, and the Project, therefore, will be unremunerative.

(c) No such proposal is included in the Railways' programme of construction for new lines for the Third Five Year Plan.

12 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

Mr. Speaker: I think, hon. Members must have read this morning the news about the sad demise of the Maharaja of Sikkim. Of course, we deeply mourn the loss of a friend of ours. He was a benevolent ruler in whose incumbency the State made marked progress. I am sure, the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family and to the Government and the people of Sikkim. I will request hon. Members to stand in silence for a minute.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

12.01 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

EXPLOSION IN A RAILWAY WAGON AT AJNI NEAR NAGPUR

Mr. Speaker: I have received notices from many hon. Members. Shri Mani Ram Bagri is the first signatory. He may read it.

श्री बागड़ी (हिसार) : मैं रेलवे मंत्री का ध्यान निम्न अविलम्बनीय लोक महत्व के विषय की ओर आकर्षित करता हूँ और चाहता हूँ कि वह इस सम्बन्ध में अपना वक्तव्य दें :

“नागपुर में मालगाड़ी के डब्बे में हुआ विस्फोट जिसके फल स्वरूप

३२ व्यक्ति घायल हुए और मकानों व रेल के कारखानों को नुकसान”

The Minister of Railways (Shri Dasappa): May I crave your indulgence to make my statement in English?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Shri Dasappa: On 2-12-1963 at 10.05 hours, a covered wagon CR No. 51176 repacked at Ajni transhipment shed for Itarsi Junction containing detonators, potassium chlorate and military stores exploded while standing in one of the yard lines in Ajni Marshalling Yard.

2. This wagon was repacked in the Ajni transhipment shed on 29-11-1963. It was a van made up with dangerous goods and sealed for Itarsi with 63 cases, details of which are given below:

43 cases of detonators booked from Itwari (Nagpur).

(41 to Tanakpur, N.E. Rly, 1 to Solon, 1 to Joginder Nagar).

20 cases of potassium chlorate from Salt Cotours to Kanpur.

1 case of military stores from Salt Cotours to Chandigarh.

3. The explosion of the wagon caused damage to 20 other wagons including heavy damage to 3 wagons containing full pressed sotton, rolled paper and bitumen. There was also some damage to track, telephone and telegraph wires, railway quarters and staff quarters of the Government Medical College nearby. The damage to property in the Railway premises is estimated to be approximately Rs. 1.60 lakhs.

4. Thirty-two persons received minor injuries. Of these, twenty-eight were Railway employees, two members of Railway employees' families and two outsiders. No one was seriously injured.