

has been doing. With regard to the General Manager, I will have to look into it and decide, and after I get the information, I shall convey it to the hon. Member.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, the Commissioner of Railway Safety, according to the Minister; is an independent body. As far as my knowledge goes, a Railway officer is being appointed as the Commissioner of Railway Safety. In other words, the institution of Commissioner of Safety may be independent but the officers appointed are from the Railway Department. My question is, do you have any informal or formal control over the Commission?

SHRI E. AHAMMED: To the best of my knowledge, Mr. Chairman, this is purely under the administrative control of the Civil Aviation Ministry. The officer might have retired from the Railways, but the Railways have absolutely no control over the Commissioner.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, part of my question has been asked by my friend, Dr. Malaisamy. Whenever a railway accident takes place, the Commissioner of Railway Safety conducts an inquiry. The hon. Minister said just now that it is under the control of the Civil Aviation Ministry. But the question is, is the Commissioner totally independent of the Railway Ministry and the Civil Aviation Ministry? I ask this because the enquiry has to be impartial. Accidents may be due to technical failure or human failure or problems in the track. So, in a way the railways are responsible for the accidents and an officer who has got something to do with the Railways cannot conduct an impartial inquiry. Therefore, my question is: will the Government examine the possibility of having an independent inquiry by a Commissioner, independent both of the Civil Aviation and Railway Ministries? Sir, if you would permit me, I shall just take one minute. In Kerala there was an accident where a train fell into the lake and more than 100 people died. The enquiry commissioner said it was due to a tornado, which never occurred! This is what happens in this country! That is why I say that I have apprehensions about the independence of the Commissioner of inquiry. What would the Minister do about this?

SHRI E. AHAMMED: I do not wish to dispute the hon. Member's impression about the Commission. But as it is, now it is not under the control of the Railways. The Railways have absolutely no control over it. The administrative control, including the appointments, lies with the Civil Aviation. It is a matter to be decided by the Government whether this has to be continued or not. Therefore, I am not in a position to make any comment on this matter.

जम्मू मेल में अतिरिक्त ई.एफ.टी. किराये की रसीद बरामद किया जाना

***202. श्री संजय राउत :**

श्री भारतकुमार राऊत : ††

क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या रेल सतर्कता दल द्वारा जम्मू तवी जाने वाली जम्मू मेल में चल टिकट निरीक्षक से छः करोड़ रुपए की अतिरिक्त ई.एफ.टी. रसीद बरामद करने का मामला सरकार की जानकारी में आया है;

†† सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री भारतकुमार राउत द्वारा पूछा गया।

(ख) क्या सतर्कता दल ने उस चल टिकट निरीक्षक के विरुद्ध विभागीय कार्रवाई की सिफारिश की है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसके विरुद्ध की गई कार्रवाई का ब्यौरा क्या है?

रेल मंत्री (कुमारी ममता बनर्जी): (क) से (ग) केंद्रीय अन्वेषण ब्यूरो द्वारा अग्रेषित एक अज्ञात शिकायत के आधार पर निवारक जांच की गई थी और एक टिकट जांच कर्मचारी को ईएफटी (अतिरिक्त किराया टिकट) बुक का दुरुपयोग करते हुए पाया गया था। उसे निलंबित कर दिया गया है। जांच पूरी होने के उपरांत उसके विरुद्ध अनुशासन एवं अपील नियमों के तहत विभागीय कार्रवाई की जाएगी।

Recovery of excess E.F.T. fare receipt in Jammu Mail

† *202.SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT:††

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the matter of recovery of excess E.F.T. fare receipt of Rs. 6 crore belonging to T.T.E. by Railways Vigilance team in Jammu Mail en route Jammu Tawi has come to the notice of Government;

(b) whether the vigilance team has recommended departmental action against that T.T.E.; and

(c) if so, the details of the action taken against him?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) On the basis of an anonymous complaint forwarded by CBI, a preventive check was conducted and one Ticket Checking staff was found misusing the EFT (Excess Fare Ticket) books. He has been placed under suspension. Departmental action under Discipline and Appeal Rules will be initiated against him after completion of enquiry.

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Mr. Chairman Sir, I am really surprised by this answer but my question is very, very pointed and the answer is equally vague. The Government either does not take the question seriously, or, is trying to cover up; it is trying to push daylight robbery and broad corruption under cover. My question was: receipts of six crores of rupees were found in the bag of the TTE, the train ticket inspector. There was a CBI inquiry into this. Over a month has passed. What action has been taken? Is the Government aware that this is just one such instance; it is just the tip of an iceberg. Six crores of rupees have been found on one TTE! This is a big racket in which many officers from top to bottom must have been involved; otherwise, such a thing cannot happen. Is the Government taking it seriously? What action are you taking about this?

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government is taking it as seriously as possible and Government has not suppressed anything and we are not trying to save anybody. We have only given the facts. After the question has been put, we got the information from the concerned Department which I share with the hon. Members of the House. An anonymous complaint was received from CBI, Chandigarh which alleged that a particular Junior Inspector of Ticket is earning illegal money by way

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

†† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bharatkumar Raut.

of issuing fake E.F.T., that is, Excess Fare Tickets. The complaint is under investigation. To confirm the veracity of the complaint regarding this Excess Fare Ticket, a preventive check in Train No.4034 Jammu Mail was conducted by Railways Vigilance on the working of this particular T.T.E. in Pathankot. He was in possession of one E.F.T. book in original, which was duly issued to him and one more book which was not issued to him. On further investigation, another E.F.T. book was found in his possession. It was found that that book bearing same number was issued to another T.T.E. by this particular man, as the custodian of money value books in Pathankot. Thereafter a further check has been done and some used and unused books were found by the Vigilance. Action has been taken for his suspension and investigations are going on. What actually happens is that these books are to be entrusted to one of the checking inspectors so as to distribute them to other checking inspectors. What this particular officer has done, as it is found, is that he kept the original with him. He got fake books printed and distributed them to his other colleagues. His other colleagues used them as original and remitted the money to the Railways. But at the same time, it is presumed or it has already been believed that this man and the original books and pocketed the money himself. Investigations are going on by the Vigilance. As and when the final report will come to the Government, we will take necessary action.

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Sir, to the best of my knowledge, all these E.F.T. receipts have watermarks. There is a perfect security system so that the fake receipts are not given to passengers. Even then, this bill book which was found with him has no watermarks. Will the Railway Administration take care that no such fake ticket books are issued to T.T.Es for any matter? Let me explain it. On stations, which are not very-well equipped, passengers get in the train. Many times, they are without ticket. T.T.E. goes to him and charges him. Poor passenger gives him money and then E.F.T. is issued to him. He thinks that this is original ticket. However, that is the fake ticket. If the passenger is caught on the next station, he will be jailed. Who is responsible for that? Northern Railways is not the only Railways, this is happening in Central and Southern Railways also. What measures are the Government taking to curb this?

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: This is regular in all stations. ...*(Interruptions)*... Not a single person, I think, is arrested. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister respond.

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I share all the doubts and other views expressed by the hon. Member. ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes, it is true. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, let me complete my answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, let the reply be complete.

SHRI E. AHAMMED: I am here to answer. I am bound to answer. As a matter of fact, as far as the EFT (Excess Fair Ticket) is concerned, there are 50 foils in each book containing three copies each. The first copy is accounts copy to be deposited in the Accounts Office. The second is

passenger copy to be given to the passenger. The third one is record copy to be kept by officer in charge of records. As the hon. Member has said here, the TTE can keep only one EFT books for using it on his parent railway, and one new book. So, he could have only two EFTs. He has to return EFT to Chief Ticketing Inspector as and when it has been consumed. So, when it had been consumed, I do not know why these Ticket Examiners did not verify it, whether it was original or not. As the hon. Member also pointed out, there is also uniform procedure ordered about returning and examining these EFTs. TTEs are also given training to see not only the remittance of the cash but also monitoring of timely submission and also whether EFT is genuine or not, the watermark. But, in spite of all this procedure and in spite of all circulars issued that they have to do this as per the set procedure, this has happened. That is why I say that the Vigilance Department is now investigating this matter. When their final report comes, we will have to take more preventive action in this matter.

श्री गंगा चरण : महोदय, मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जम्मू मेल में जो घटना हुई है, इस तरह की घटनाएं एक स्थान पर नहीं पूरे देश में हो रही हैं। हम लोग अपनी आंखों के सामने देखते हैं कि हम लोगों को रिजर्वेशन नहीं मिलता है, लेकिन लोग टीटी को पैसा देते हैं, घूस देते हैं और उन लोगों को सीट मिल जाती है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वह ऐसे किसी एंटी करप्शन दस्ते का गठन करेंगे, जो ऐसे लुटेरों को पकड़ कर तुरंत गिरफ्तार करे?

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Members know, these things happen in Indian Railways in many of the Zones, and in Jammu Mail may also have the same experience. I do not want to deny it. But, we also feel that this is high time for the Railways to take some preventive measures. Now, what is preventive action? Mr. Chairman, Sir, as we know, the total number of employees in the Railways is 14 lakh, out of which a substantial number of people are working as Ticket Examiners. I also share this with you because despite the fact that all these instructions have been issued, I am suspecting TTE should also identify whether it was genuine or not. I do expect. But, these are the matters to be looked into and serious action has to be taken. That can be done only after we get the report from the investigating agency. Therefore, please, give us some time till the Vigilance Department gives their final report for the Government to take as stringent action as possible to prevent recurrence of such things.

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Sir, we all travel by railways and it is an established fact that all railway stations, and particularly the railway stations in metro cities like Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai, are full of touts and criminals. The hon. Minister has given a typical bureaucratic reply, and it is a basic reply. He has tried to explain the procedures. We are all aware of the procedures. But, tell us the concrete steps which you plan to take so that this sort of open loot, which takes place at various railway stations, is stopped. I challenge the hon. Minister if he goes to any railway station, New Delhi, Old Delhi, Nizamuddin, before you meet a Railways employee, you will meet a tout who will tell you कि यहां से जम्मू जाना है, तो पचास या सौ रुपये निकालो, अभी तुरन्त मिल जाएगी।

MR, CHAIRMAN: Please, put your question.

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: How are you going to stop it? This sort of explaining the procedure does not help.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Sir, my question is : what sort of steps are they planning to take to stop this open loot which is taking place at all the major railway stations, where the poor people are being targeted?

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have not intended to mislead or misrepresent anything what is in my possession. As a Member of this House and as a politician, I also feel what the hon. Member feels.

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Do something, Sir. We can feel but you can do something. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Sir, whatever information I have, I have shared with the hon. Members of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... I also agree with you on certain points. This has to be looked into. Action has to be taken and there has to be. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : सर, ...*(व्यवधान)*... इस विषय पर केन्द्रीय मंत्री जी को जवाब देना चाहिए ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Mr. Prasad, you were also answering the very same thing. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am also answering the same thing. ...*(Interruptions)*... Therefore, as a Minister, as a person who is bound to answer to this hon. House, I will have to share the information which I have. To the best of my knowledge, I am sharing all these things with you. Is it a fault? Is it wrong? No. But, at the same time. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री गंगा चरण : सर, ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति : प्लीज़, प्लीज़ ...*(व्यवधान)*... आपने अपना सवाल पूछ लिया है ...*(व्यवधान)*... अब आप बैठ जाइए ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI E. AHAMMED: I assure the House that all the concerns expressed by the hon. Members will be taken up very seriously and we will do everything possible that we can.

SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Can you give us a time-frame within which you will be able to bring out a scheme to stop all these things? Can you please give us a time-frame?

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Sir, these are the matters. ...*(Interruptions)*... the hon. Member must be knowing that this is a railway issue, which has many zones and divisions spread far and wide in India. I cannot give a time-frame. Only thing which I can tell is that we would seriously consider this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let there be order in the House. Ms. Mabel Rebello. Question please.

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, I have a straight question. Just now, it was said that the TTE was carrying six crore of money when the CBI raided. I want to know whether the TTE had really collected the money or he was a conduit for some other money of some businessman or somebody else. It is not possible for him to collect six crore. of rupees in one journey.

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Mr. Chairman, Sir, according to the information which I have, this particular culprit, this delinquent TTE, on examination and raid, had only about forty thousand rupees, and, not an amount of six crore of rupees, which is being mentioned. As per the information given to me after all the calculations and all these things, under no circumstances, even if all these things are used, it could be six crore of rupees, because as per the book taken from him, it can have forty thousand of rupees. ...*(Interruptions)*... Therefore, as per my information, six crore of rupees is not reasonable amount. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 203. *(Interruptions)*

श्री के.बी. शण्पा : सर, वे 6 करोड़ रुपए किधर गए? ...*(व्यवधान)*... Where is that money? *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No interjection, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... No interjection.

सुश्री मैबल रिबेलो : वे रुपए कहां से आए ...*(व्यवधान)*... वे किधर गए नहीं, बल्कि कहां से आए? ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ms. Rebello, you have asked your question. That is enough. *(Interruptions)* No, no. नहीं, आप बैठ जाइए! ...*(व्यवधान)*... Question No. 203

रसायनों के प्रयोग के कारण भूमि की उर्वरा शक्ति में कमी

*203. श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी :††

श्री भगवती सिंह :

क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि रसायनों के प्रयोग के कारण भूमि की उर्वरा शक्ति नष्ट हो रही है जिससे खेत बंजर होते जा रहे हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार भूमि को खेती योग्य बनाने के लिए क्या उपाय कर रही है तथा भूमि को प्रभावित करने वाले रसायन कौन-कौन से हैं; और

(ग) तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

कृषि मंत्री (श्री शरद पवार): (क) से (ग) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) से (ग) देश में कृषि मुख्यतः उपयोगित रसायनों जैसे नाइट्रोजनी, फोस्फेटिक और पोटैसिक रसायन उर्वरकों और पंजीकृत कीटनाशियों के सन्तुलित और विवेकपूर्ण उपयोग के कारण मृदा स्वास्थ्य और उर्वरता को क्षति होने की कोई सूचना नहीं है। तथापि, रसायनिक उर्वरकों के असन्तुलित और अविवेकपूर्ण प्रयोग से देश के कुछ भागों में मृदा स्वास्थ्य और उत्पादकता पर प्रभाव देखा गया है। सरकार द्वारा कृषि के लिए मृदा स्वास्थ्य के रख-रखाव और विकास के लिए किए जा रहे उपायों का ब्यौरा निम्नलिखित है:-

(i) कृषि एवं सहकारिता विभाग की विभिन्न स्कीमों जैसे राष्ट्रीय जैव कृषि परियोजना, राष्ट्रीय मृदा स्वास्थ्य और उर्वरता प्रबंधन परियोजना आदि के तहत जैव खाद और जैव उर्वरकों के उपयोग को प्रोत्साहन।

†† सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री बृजभूषण तिवारी द्वारा पूछा गया।