

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

### 89 up Bikaner Express

3139. SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 2nd December, 1983; the 89-Up Bikaner Express caught fire after the engine and some coaches jumped off the rails at Sohnera station on the Delhi-Bikaner section of Northern Railway;

(b) if so, what are the reasons of the derailment and the total damage caused thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to check the growing number of rail accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) The dining car of 89 Up Bikaner Express caught fire and the fire spread to two adjacent coaches when the engine and seven coaches derailed near Sohansara Station on the Delhi-Bikaner Section of Northern Railway on the 2nd December, 1983.

(b) The reasons of the derailment will be known on receipt of report of enquiry, which has been conducted by Commissioner of Railway Safety, Northern Circle. The total damage to Railway property has been estimated as Rs. 30,01,785/-.

(c) During the first eight months of current year (April to November, 1983), the number of train accidents declined to 525 from 576 during the same months of last year.

Some of the recent measures to prevent accidents are:—

(i) Toning up the system to ensure utmost precautions by the staff in train operation by intensifying inspection, frequent surprise checks and counselling of staff in correct methods of working.

(ii) Stringent and demonstrative action against staff responsible for accidents.

(iii) Special field inspection by teams of Senior Officers to study problems for immediate corrective action.

(iv) Seeking cooperation of State Governments in educating road users to exercise caution and vigilance while negotiating level crossings.

(v) Progressive manning of level crossings and providing telephones/interlocking at larger number of manned crossings.

(vi) Monitoring of safety efforts by the Railway Board, Zonal General Managers and Divisional Railway Managers.

(vii) Renewal of track, replacement of overaged coaches, wagons and locomotives and other equipment within the resources available.

### Review of the railway staffing pattern

3140. SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to review the existing railway staffing pattern;

(b) if so, when necessary steps are expected to be taken in the above matter; and

(c) what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) to (c) Staff Inspection Units, Efficiency Cells, Work Study Cells on Zonal Railways are engaged on the continuous process of studies oriented towards adequacy of staff strength vis-a-vis workload, streamlining of procedures bringing about efficiency and improvement in operations. Specific subject for this purpose are picked up and studies are conducted and remedial steps taken on the recommendations. The Efficiency Bureau in the Board's Office also conduct studies not only to improve productivity but also to remove any impediments in the smooth operation/activities