

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Cases have come to notice of unauthorised short distance passengers and monthly season ticket holders enter-»g reserved coaches on long distance Mail and Express trains including Jhelum Express and Jammu Mail running to and from Delhi i/New Delhi during the morning and evening hours causing inconvenience to bonafide long distance passengers travelling therein.

(b) Any neglect of duty by the staff manning first class corridor type and sleeper coaches is viewed seriously and appropriate action taken.

(c) and (d) The services of Railway Police personnel to assist passengers in finding reserved accommodation are not necessary.

However, these personnel assist in preventing unauthorised entry into reserved coaches and evicting the unauthorised passengers.

Checks by ticket checking staff, Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police are conducted to ensure that reserved coaches are not occupied by unauthorised passengers.

Allotment of railway land in Kangra Valley under Grow More Food Scheme

2737. Dr. LOKESH CHANDRA:
SHRI ROSHAN LAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the land rendered vacant by the diversion of railway track near Pond Dam reservoir (45 to 50 Kms from Pathankot in Kangra Valley) was allotted to some farmers of village under the Grow More Food Scheme :

(b) if so what are the terms and conditions of allotment of the aforesaid land; and

(c) whether the land in question has actually been transferred to the allottees, if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) A part of the land (about 12 acres), rendered surplus due to the diversion of railway track, has been licensed to railway employers and others under the "Grow More Food" Scheme.

(b) Each licensee has been allotted a plot of land about one acre in area. The plots have been temporarily licensed for "Grow More Food" and are let at rates prescribed by the Railway.

(c) No. Since the entire land is required to be transferred to the State Public Works Departments for the construction of road, it cannot be transferred.

Tracing of Bhawani Sword"

2738. DR. M. M. S. SIDDHU : SHRI
BISWA GOSWAMI: SHRI
NARA SINGHA
PRASAD NANDA : SHRI
SHRIDHARWASU-
DEO DHABE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the High Commission of India in London has tried to locate "BHAWANI SWORD" in United Kingdom recently, if so, with what result;

(b) whether any report has been received from the present High Commissioner or the former High Commissioner in this regard, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what was the outcome of the discussions the Chief Minister of Maharashtra had with the U. K. Government's representatives during the former's visit to that country recently ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) It has been ascertained that a Sword presented by the Maharaja of the Kolhapur to Prince of Wales during the latter's visit to India in 1875 is presently stored in the Buckingham Palace along with other Royal collections. The Government of Maharashtra have informed us that this Sword may have been one of the several weapons belonging to and used by Chhatrapati Shivaji during his lifetime.

(b) and (c) The High Commission have reported that the return of this Sword from UK was raised informally during his recent visit of the Chief Minister, Maharashtra, to London. Further action in the matter is under consideration.

2739. [Withdrawn]

DTC Buses involved in Accidents

2740. SHRI BAPURAOJI MAROT-RAOJI DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total number of Delhi Transport Corporation buses and private buses involved in accidents operating under DTC separately since January, 1980 ;

(b) what is the number of buses involved in accidents along with dates and route numbers of these buses ;

(c) whether Government propose to set up a Road Safety Directorate under D.T.C. on the lines similar to Rail and Air Safety Directorates to enquire into cases of each accident, fix responsibility and suggest ways for minimising the accidents, if so, by when and if not, what are the reasons therefor ; and

(d) whether Government are aware of the fact that D.T.C. buses carry passengers double their capacity during peak hours thus violating not only traffic rules but also risking lives of passengers, if so, what steps Government propose to take to deal with this anomalous situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b) 1746 D. T. C. buses and 189 private buses, operating under kilometrage scheme of D.T.C. were involved in 2730 and 219 accidents from January to November, 1980 respectively. The compilation of details of accidents showing dates and route numbers etc. involves work which is not commensurate with the result to be obtained therefrom.

(c) A full fledged 'Accident Cell' has been set up in D.T.C. to function under a Senior Technical Officer. The Accident Cell will enquire into cause of each accident, fix responsibility and suggest ways of minimising the accidents.

(d) Yes, Sir. In order to reduce the over-crowding in the D.T.C. buses and for safety of the passengers in the buses, the D.T.C. has issued necessary instructions to the operating crew not to take any passengers standing on the foot-boards. The Police authorities have also been instructed to make challans against such staff if there is any passengers standing on the foot-boards. Further, in order to reduce the over-crowding in the buses, the D.T.C. has planned to augment its services by acquiring 630 new buses in its own fleet and adding 250 buses from private operators built on DTC specifications.