

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if this shortage could be related to growing incidents of railway accidents; and
- (d) the action being proposed/taken by Government in this regard and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The number of vacant posts of Drivers and Gangman (including Gangmate) on the Zonal Railways, as on 01.04.2009 is as under:

(i) Drivers	:	7190
(ii) Gangmen (including Gangmate)	:	35288

Safety Officers: Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) and (d) The number of consequential train accidents have declined over the years. Action taken includes streamlining of the working of Railway Recruitment Boards, including technical audit of the examination system and holding of examinations for a particular post on the same date simultaneously by all the Railway Recruitment Boards. Recruitment process are at various stages for filling up of vacancies including backlog of reserved vacancies.

#### **Robbery in Howrah bound Amritsar Mail**

3480. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that on 22 February, 2010 armed robbers attacked the passengers travelling in coach number 10 of Howrah bound Amritsar Mail;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that RPF personnel travelling in very next compartment neither prevented the robbers nor arrested them; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) On 22.02.2010, 9/10 miscreants looted the passengers travelling in coach no. S-10 of Train No. 3006 Amritsar — Howrah Mail between Dumrao and Reghunathpur Railway stations in Patna — Mughalsarai section over East Central Railway. One passenger sustained injury and was given first aid by Railway doctor at Danapur Railway station. Government Railway Police, Agra has registered a case *vide* crime no. 15/10 dated 23.02.2010 under section 395/397 Indian Penal Code.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The train was escorted by 5 Government Railway Police personnel of Ara.

#### **Development of crash-worthy coaches**

3481. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: