

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Tuticorin Port was declared Major Port in July 1974. The traffic handled at this port from that time is given below:—

(In lakh tonnes)			
Year	Import	Export	Total
1974-75	0.74	..	0.74
1975-76	2.51	0.26	2.77
1976-77	3.24	3.05	6.29
1977-78	5.01	1.34	6.35
1978-79	6.89	3.69	10.58
1979-80	17.13	6.99	24.12

(b) Provision for construction of additional berths, procurement of handling equipment, etc. is proposed to be made in the five year plan 1980-85.

Implementation of Bonus Act

1050. SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to make the implementation of the Bonus Act compulsory for various industries;

(b) whether there is any proposal to raise the ceiling and if so what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have held any meeting with the concerns of production and labour in this regard; if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) Implementation of the provisions of the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, is a statutory obligation of the establishments to which the Act applies.

(b) Proposals for raising the ceilings for payment of bonus have been received and are being considered alongwith other proposals.

(c) In February, 1980 meetings were held with the representatives of the organisations of workers and employers. Another meeting was held in June, 1980 with certain labour leaders. Several suggestions were made for amending the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, during discussion at these meetings. These are under consideration.

भोपाल रेलवे स्टेशन पर चोरियों का घटनाएं

1051. श्री प्यारेलाल खण्डेलवाल : क्या रेलमंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भोपाल रेलवे स्टेशन पर 1 जनवरी, 1979 तथा 31 मार्च, 1980 के बीच जेब चटने तथा चोरों की कितनी घटनाएँ हुई ; और

(ख) भोपाल-होशंगाबाद-खंडवा तथा भोपाल-बाना खण्ड में 1 मार्च, 1980 और 30 जून, 1980 के बीच रेलों में कितनी डकैतियाँ पड़ी ?

Incidents of thefts on the Bhopal Railway Station

1051. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of incidents of pickpocketing and thefts that took place between 1st January, 1979 and 31st March, 1980 at the Bhopal Railway Station; and

(b) what is the number of train dacoities between 1st March, 1980 and 30th June, 1980 on Bhopal—Hoshangabad—Khandwa and on Bhopal—Bina sections?

†[] English translation.

रेल मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन) : (क) भोपाल जंक्शन पर 1-1-1979 और 31-3-1980 के बीच त्रेव हाटने की 74 घटनाएँ और यात्रियों के सामान की चोरी की 136 घटनाएँ हुई थी।

(ख) 1-3-1980 से 30-6-1980 के बीच भोपाल होशंगाबाद खंड पर गाड़ों में डकैती की एक घटना और भोपाल बीना खंड में गाड़ी लूटने की एक घटना हुई थी। इस अवधि के दौरान होशंगाबाद खंडवा से गाड़ी लूटने/डकैती की घटना की कोई रिपोर्ट नहीं मिली है।

[THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) 74 cases of pick-pocketing and 136 cases of theft of passengers' belongings took place at Bhopal Jn. between 1-1-1979 to 31-3-1980.

(b) One train dacoity in Bhopal-Hoshangabad section and one case of train robbery in Bhopal-Bina section occurred between 1-3-1980 to 30-6-1980. No case of train robbery] dacoity was reported from Hoshanga-bad—Khandwa section during this period.]

Irregular service of Calcutta's suburban trains

1052. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the irregular service of the Calcutta's suburban trains;

(b) whether Government are aware that this irregularity led to passengers' demonstrations and tear-gassing and lathi-charge by police on 19th July, 1980 at the Sealdah Station

†[] English translation.

and damage to Railway property on that day, followed by passengers' demonstrations on successive days at other Railway stations; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remove the irregularity in the Suburban Railway service in Calcutta?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The punctuality performance of EMU trains on Eastern Railway during January to July, 80 ranged from 80 to 85 per cent.

(b) The unpunctual running of suburban trains on Eastern Railway has largely been due to miscreant activities and short availability of adequate spares. The demonstration etc. took place at Sealdah station on 19-7-80 in protest against late start of SK 277 Up Local which was caused due to culmination of various factors leading to dislocation of suburban services on account of mechanical failures, miscreant activities and late arrival of Railway Staff due to heavy rains disrupting road services etc. The three demonstrations which took place subsequently in the following week were for reasons not due to late running of trains.

(c) Every effort is being made to improve the running of suburban trains in Calcutta area further.

Suspension of Working; Journalists by National Herald

1053. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI; SHRI JASWANT SINGH; Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether several working journalist employees of the National Herald group of Newspapers in Delhi were dismissed or suspended during the period from January to June, 1980;

(b) whether action was taken while their cases were pending before a tribunal; and