

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) 14 incidents of dacoities in running trains were reported during the last two months viz. May and June, 1980.

(b) 6 persons (all criminals) lost their lives in these incidents.

(c) No compensation is paid by the Railways to the victims of such crimes. Policing being a State subject under the Constitution, the responsibility of ensuring the safety of passengers rests with Government Railway Police which functions under the administrative and disciplinary control of the State Governments. Railway Protection Force has, however, only preventive and detective powers in respect of Railway property which includes consignments booked with the Railways.

Air-conditioned chair car for Tourists in the Taj and Pink City Expresses

✓ 106. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

✓ SHRIMATI MARGATHAM CHANDRASEKHAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that air-conditioned chair-car facilities are not available for foreign and Indian tourists in the Taj Express and the Pink City Express;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when Government propose to introduce Air-conditioned chair car and other facilities in these trains?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) As there was no demand, manufacture of self generating full AC chair cars was not undertaken by Indian Railways till the current year and for the first time self generating Broad Gauge AC chair cars are being manufactured in 1980-81. Further manufacture of AC chair cars in future will depend on the availability of funds and the manufacturing capacity within the country. Provision of AC chair cars on Taj Express will be duly considered along with other similar demands, depending on the availability of self generating AC chair cars in future. There is no proposal for manufacture of self generating AC chair cars on the Metre Gauge and as such introduction of this service in Pink City Express does not arise at present.

Issue of permits for Matador Vans

107. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR: SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

✓ SHRIMATI MARGATHAM CHANDRASEKHAR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Administration has recently decided to introduce 'Matador Vans' and six seater scooter on fixed fare for commuters in view of the high cost of taxi and scooter fare and if so, what are the details in this regard;

(b) what are the norms and conditions laid down by the Delhi Administration for grant of permits for plying of Matador Vans and six-seater; and

(c) what is the number of permits which have been issued for 'Matador Van' and six seater scooter by now and how many more are proposed to be issued and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH):

(a) The Delhi Administration has decided to introduce Matador 15/7 seater vans and 6/4 seater auto-rickshaws on "point to point" basis, to and from certain fixed points, where either the carrying capacity of the bus system is inadequate or there is constraint on road capacity, heterogeneity of traffic modes etc. Broad features of the Scheme are given below:—

(i) To begin with, it is proposed to grant 50 permits each to 15/7 seater Matador vans and 6/4 seater Vikram auto-rickshaws.

(ii) Matador vans and Vikram auto-rickshaws will initially be introduced on 10 separate routes and the average route length will not exceed 10 kms. and 6 kms. respectively.

(iii) The maximum chargeable fare for matador vans will be 75 paise and 60 paise for the vikram autorickshaws.

(b) The matter regarding allotment of permits will be decided by the State Transport Authority, Delhi, which is a quasi-judicial body.

(c) No permit has been issued so far, in this scheme 50 permits for each type of vehicle will be issued in the first instance as an experiment.

Joint move by foreign countries to meet Russian threat

108. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:
SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:
PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA:
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U. S. President Carter in his recent meeting with Chinese Prime Minister made a proposal to the effect that USA, China and Japan should jointly meet the Russian threat in Middle East and other parts of Asia;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what will be the effect of this Troika move on this sub-continent; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to de-escalate the tension?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) According to news agency reports, the U.S. Press Secretary, Mr. Jody Powell said that during the recent meeting in Tokyo between the U.S. President and the Chinese Premier "it was apparent that there was an essential agreement between the U.S. and China with regard to strategic perspective, particularly as they related to the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and the invasion of Kampuchea by the Soviet-backed Vietnamese troops."

Earlier, at a Press Conference just before the meeting, President Carter called for "the sharing by U.S., China and Japan of long-range strategic concerns to minimise the Soviet military build-up", adding, however, that this did not constitute "a formal alliance against the Soviet Union".

(c) and (d) Government of India keep under constant review all developments of a political or military nature which may have a bearing on the interest and security of India.

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PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report (1978-79) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under section 19 of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Twenty-