

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported proposal of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to increase the price of crude to be exported by about 10 per cent from the next year;

(b) if so, to what extent the proposed increase is likely to affect India's import bill; and

(c) what efforts have been made by the Government of India to persuade these countries to keep down the price of the crude supplied to India or in the alternative to find other avenues of supply of crude?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and (b) The question of an increase in crude prices by OPEC Countries is expected to be considered at their forthcoming meeting at Abu Dhabi on 16th December, 1978, India's oil import bill stands at around Rs. 1600 crores & t present and will increase in accordance with any further hike in crude prices by OPEC.

(c) India has bilateral cooperation arrangements with Iraq, Iran, UAE, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. In the multilateral field, India has worked together with the OPEC countries in the various meetings of the non-aligned movement. The question of oil price was an issue under consideration at the discussions in the conference on International Economic Cooperation held in Paris. India has tried to impress upon them the need for adequate differential and remedial measures to protect the interests of oil importing developing countries against rises in oil prices but these countries have not agreed to the concept of having a differential price for the non-oil producing developing countries. Although no agreement has been reached on oil

pricing, our problems and interests are no-sy better understood and appreciated. The question of exploring other avenues for the supply of crude does I not arise in view of the overall international oil situation.

Murders, dacoities and robberies in running: train,

*7. SHRI P. M. KHAN: SHRI BHIM RAJ: SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of murder, dacoity and theft in running trains that took place during the first ten months of the current year, zone-wise;

(b) the number of such incidents that took place during the corresponding period of the last year;

(c) the details of the loss of (i) life and property of the passengers, and (ii) life of railwaymen, in such incidents during the current year;

(d) the compensation paid by the Railways to those injured or to the next of kin of those who lost their lives in these incidents; and

(e) the number of persons so far apprehended for their involvement in these incidents and the recent steps taken by Government to strengthen vigilance on the Railways to eliminate recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) As per information collected from State Police Authorities, the number of murders, dacoities and robberies which took place during the first 10 months of the current year, zone-wise is indicated below•

Railway	Murders	Dacoities	Robberies
Central . . .	1	3	20
Eastern . . .	5	27	18
Northern . . .	11	10	51
North Eastern . . .	5	7	18
NF . . .	..	1	3
Southern . . .	..	3	5
South Central . . .	1	3	2
South Eastern . . .	..	22	6
Western . . .	8	2	10
TOTAL . . .	31	56	133

As regarded thefts of passenger belongings in running trains the information is being collected from the State Police authorities and will be placed in the Table of the House.

(b) As per information collected from State Police Authorities, the number of incidents of murder, dacoity, and robbery that took place during the corresponding period of the last year is indicated below:

Railway	Murders	Dacoities	Robberies
Central . . .	2	2	25
Eastern . . .	..	17	29
Northern . . .	12	4	39
North Eastern . . .	2	19	47
N F . . .	..	1	4
Southern . . .	1	..	12
South Central . . .	..	13	17
South Eastern . . .	..	5	10
Western . . .	4	4	18
TOTAL . . .	21	53	191

Information in respect of thefts of passenger belongings in running trains is being collected from the various State Police authorities.

(c) As per information collected from State Police Authorities, details of loss of life and property of passengers and life of railwaymen in respect of murders, dacoities and robberies during the current year upto October are indicated below:

Railway	Loss of life of passengers	Loss of property of passengers	Loss of life of Railwaymen
	(in rupees)		
Central . . .	..	1,47,122	1
Eastern . . .	4	2,85,132	1
Northern . . .	11	1,99,487	..
North Eastern . . .	5	47,368	..
N.F.. . .	..	15,101	..
Southern . . .	..	6,975	..
South Central . . .	1	19,080	..
South Eastern . . .	..	15,126	..
Western . . .	8	22,816	..
	29	7,58,207	2

Information in respect of thefts is being collected from the State Police authorities.

(d) As per the existing rules, no compensation is admissible to the victims of such crimes.

(e) As per information collected from State Police Authorities, the number of persons apprehended for their involvement in these incidents is indicated below zone-wise:

Railway	No. of persons apprehended for their involvement in these offences
Central	34
Eastern	123
Northern	82
North Eastern	21
N.F.	1
Southern	9
South Central	7
South Eastern	3
Western	21
TOTAL	301

The responsibility of ensuring the safety of passengers and the Security of their belongings rests with the Government Railway Police which functions under the administrative and disciplinary control of the State Governments. The RPF has preventive and detective powers only in respect of unlawful possession of railway property.

In the wake of robberies and dacoities in North-South-bound trains,

on 16/6/1978 a high level meeting was held between the officers of the Ministries of Railways and Home Affairs in which certain firm decisions such as prompt channel of communication with the police escort in the centre of the train, provision of powerful torch lights with guards and brakemen and close liaison with the States affected for stepping up police protection were taken.

The Zonal Railways launched a drive to ensure strict adherence to instructions about locking of vestibule doors between 22.00 hrs. and 06.00 hrs. Besides, travelling Ticket Examiners and Coach Attendants remain vigilant during night time and prevent entry of intruders, hawkers and unauthorised persons into the coaches.

The GRP, functioning under the State Governments, have also intensified the preventive measures adopted by them.

The Minister of Railways had drawn the attention of the Chief Ministers of the concerned States requesting them to take firm measures to curb crimes in running trains. The response from the Chief Ministers has been encouraging.

The problem of crimes affecting passenger security and safety of their belongings was discussed in the recent conference of the Chief Ministers.

Though the Railway Protection Force is concerned with the protection of goods entrusted to Railways for carriage and railway materials, in order to instil confidence among the travelling public and deter criminals from operating on trains, over 2000 armed RPF personnel have been deployed for escorting trains on vulnerable sections all over Indian Railways.