

(b) what steps Government propose to take to minimise the loss to that Railway zone on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### Statement

(a) Total amount of compensation claims paid due to loss, damage etc of goods during the last three years by the Central Railway is indicated below:—

Year	Compensation paid
*1975-76 . . .	Rs. 1.49 c. r s
*1976-77 . . .	Rs. 1.24 ,,
*1977-78 . . .	Rs. 1.33 ,,

(b) The following steps are taken by the Government to stop recurrence of such losses:—

(i) Escorting of goods trains carrying iron and steel, foodgrains, sugar, oilseeds etc. by Railway Protection Force armed personnel in vulnerable sections;

(ii) patrolling by armed Railway Protection Force Personnel in vulnerable yards;

(iii) collection of crime intelligence and conducting surprise raids by the staff of the Crime Intelligence of the Railways as well as Central Crime Bureau, Railway Board, with a view to tracking down criminals and receivers of stolen goods;

(iv) guiding and educating the staff to make them more and more conscious of the need to prevent loss of and damage to consignments;

(v) insistence on provision of dunnage to protect flap door pilferage in case of wagon-load consignments of sugar, grains, pulses, oilseeds, etc;

(vi) proper marking, addressing and labelling to prevent the consignments from going astray;

(vii) proper maintenance of wagons so that incidence of sickness of wagons resulting in detention and transshipment is minimised, and also damage by wet and pilferage through doors and body-holes is reduced;

(viii) use of nuts and bolts for rivetting wagons loaded with valuable goods.

(ix) patching panel-cuts of wagons in sick lines yards and goods sheds to reduce the circulation of defective wagons;

(x) special precautions during monsoon season to prevent damage by wet;

(xi) proper supervision and careful tallying of packages during loading and unloading operations;

(xii) intensified supervision at break-of-gauge transshipment points and repacking points; and

(xiii) prompt fixation of staff responsibility.

#### Conversion of Manmad-Aurangabad metre-gauge railway line

\*320. DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work for the conversion of the Manmad-Aurangabad metre gauge railway line into a broad gauge one has started;

(b) if not, by when the work, including building of bridges, etc., will be started and completed and by when the broad gauge line will be opened to traffic; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to ensure that no further delay takes place in completing the project which is vital for the economic development of the backward region of Marathwada?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS  
(PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a)  
Yes Sir.

(b) Final Location Survey for the project has been completed and part of the earthwork has been done. Further work on the Manmad-Aurangabad section is being taken up after the monsoon. No target date for completion of this project has yet been fixed.

(c) The schedule of completion of the project would depend upon the availability of funds from year to year.

**Increase in the basic price of oil by the OPEC Countries**

\*321. SHRI DEVENDRA NATH  
DWIVEDY:

SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the OPEC countries are considering a proposal to raise the basic price of oil; and

(b) if so, what will be the impact of the price rise on India's economy?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):

(a) At the OPEC Ministerial Meeting held in Geneva during June, 1978, the OPEC Member States decided to keep crude prices frozen at the existing level till the end of 1978.

(b) Does not arise.

\*322. [Transferred to the 9th August, 1978.]

**Committee to study the problem of metre gauge operations**

\*323. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up any committee to carry out a comprehensive study of the problems faced by the Railways in the existing metre-gauge operations;

(b) if so, what are the details regarding its composition and functions and by when it is likely to submit its report to Government; and

(c) what are the details regarding the M. G. projects which are under construction at present?

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

#### Statement

A Committee has been recently set up by the Ministry of Railways in order to study the problems of Metre Gauge operations. The Committee will make a comprehensive study of the problems and make suitable recommendations on measures to be adopted for improving equipment and operations on Metre Gauge. In view of the complicated task assigned to the Committee, it may take quite some time to submit a report.

This Committee comprises—

#### *Railway Board.*

- |                                       |                   |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Director, Planning                 | Railway Convenor  |
| 2. Director, Bureau                   | Efficiency Member |
| 3. Director, Traffic (Transportation) | „                 |
| 4. Director, Safety & Coaching        | „                 |

#### *Research, Designs & Standards Orgn.*

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 5. Director, Standards (Civil)        | „ |
| 6. Director, Standards (Motive Power) | „ |