

Transfer of Farakka Barrage to West Bengal

177. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to transfer the Farakka Barrage workshop from the Central Government to the West Bengal Government for the industrial development of the area; and

(b) if so, the names of the projects proposed to be started by the West Bengal Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SIDDHESWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The request of the Government of West Bengal for the transfer of Farakka Barrage Workshop to them for utilisation by M/s. Westinghouse Saxby Farmer Limited, a Public Undertaking of West Bengal Government, for the manufacture of agricultural pumpsets had been under consideration. However, it has since been proposed to set up a Thermal Power Station at Farakka under Central sector. The question of transfer of the workshop is, therefore, reconsidered since the facility might also be retained by the proposed Farakka Thermal Project.

Looting of Bombay-Delhi Janta Express by Bhil Ariivasis

178. SHRIMATI RATHNABAI SREENI-
VASA RAO:

SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT:

SHRI LOKANATH MISHRA:

SHRI K.C. PANDA:

SHRI M.S. ABDUL KHADAR:

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR
ADIVAREKAR:

SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL:

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KUL-
KARNI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bombay-Delhi Janta Express was recently forced to stop and looted by Bhil Adivasis between Meghnagar and Udaigarh Stations;

(b) if so, what is the extent of loss suffered by the passengers; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to prevent the occurrence of such incidents?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b) Yes, on 19-12-73 some local Bhils stopped 23-Dr» Janta Express between Meghnagar and Udaigarh stations on the Western

Railway by pulling alarm chain and reprovod 41 packages valued at about Rs. 10,048/- from the front luggage van of the train and also personal belongings of the passengers worth about Rs. 19,191/-.

(c) The Dohad-Ratlam section, on which Meghnagar-Udaigarh stations are situated, is being intensively patrolled by the police, who are being supplemented by armed RPF. Passenger trains are also being escorted over the affected section.

Loss suffered by strikes in railways

179. SHRIMATI KUMUDBEN MANI-
SHANKER JOSHI:

SHRI VENGILLA SATYANARA-
YANA:

SHRI V.K. SAKHLECHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loss suffered by the railways due to locomen's strike during the months of August and December, 1973;

(b) the details of their demands accepted by Government;

(c) the number of other strikes that took place in the railways during the last one year; and

(d) the extent of loss suffered therefrom? •

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a), (c) and (d) The loss suffered by the Railways due to strikes by Loco Running Staff in August, 1973, is Rs. 8.75 crores. Information relating loss suffered by the Railways during December strike and parts (c) and (d) of the question is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) A statement is attached.

Statement

A gist of the demands of the loco running staff which were accepted for implementation following the calling off of strike by the loco running staff in December, 1973 is as follows:

1. There will be no victimisation or any penal action.—It has been accepted that for just Trade Union activities there will be no victimisation or any penal action.

2. The Loco Running Staff Grievances Committee (Mohd. Shaft Qureshi Corn-Committee) should meet soon after—accordingly a meeting was arranged on 28th December, 1973 at 11.00 A.M. to look into the earlier and present grievances of the Association and It was also attended by Shri L.N. Mishra, Railway Minister.