

INTRODUCTION OF EXTRA TRAIN SERVICE BETWEEN RANCHI AND PATNA

B1. SHRI B. R. MUNDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only one direct train is running between Ranchi and Patna;

(b) whether it is also a fact that since the introduction of the said train the traffic has multiplied several times on this route because of the location of Heavy Engineering Corporation, Hindustan Steel and National Coal Development Corporation in this area; and

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to introduce another train on the same route to cope with the heavy rush of passengers travelling daily from Ranchi to Patna and *vice versa*?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) Introduction of an additional train between Patna and Ranchi is at present neither justified by the present quantum of traffic offering between these points nor operationally feasible due to lack of adequate section capacity enroute.

TRAIN ROBBERIES ON N.F. RAILWAY

62. SHRI GOLAP BARBORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the month of October, 1972 two train robberies took place in the passenger compartments of long distance trains to and from Assam on the Northeast Frontier Railway at/near about Alipurduar station;

(b) if so, what were the casualties and total loss sustained by the passengers; and

(c) whether it is a fact that precautionary measures taken earlier were relaxed and if so, what measures are going to be taken to stop such gangster operations in future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes.

(b) Ten persons were injured and total loss sustained is Rs. 46,000 approximately.

(c) The precautionary measures taken earlier were not relaxed. However, escorting by armed police and plain clothes staff has since been further intensified.

63. [Transferred to the 22nd November, 1972.]

RAILWAY STATION PLATFORMS IN SOUTH

64. SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that almost all the railway stations in the South and particularly in the Malabar area are very much short of length, especially for Mail and Express trains and as a result thereof number of passenger carriages are stationed outside the platform when the trains stop and this causes great difficulty to passengers especially women and aged passenger; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to remedy the defect?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b) On Southern Railway there are a number of stations which cannot accommodate increased loads of Mail and Express trains on the platform. Work regarding extension of platform are already being carried out on a programmed basis in consultation with the Zonal Railway Users' Amenities Committee, with which public opinion is associated, and who while selecting works take into consideration the comparative needs and urgency for the work at different stations and the availability of funds. However, priority is being given to those stations where the Mail and Express trains with increased loads stop.

SHORT SUPPLY OF POWER TO NANGAL FERTILIZER PLANT

65. SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Nangal Fertilizer Plant has been facing acute power crisis and has been working below capacity on this account;

(b) if so, the extent of power shortage suffered by it during the first three quarters of the current year and the extent of loss in production therein suffered this year so far; and

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure capacity working by supplying power to this plant to the full; and whether expansion of this plant has been reconsidered in view of the shortage of power supply, if so, the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Actual power supply received by the Nangal Unit during the period 1.1.72 to