

(d) A statement giving details of steps taken is attached.

STATEMENT

Steps taken to check looting of wagons and stealing of Railway materials :

(i) In order to avoid tampering with the consignments loaded in wagons, they are sealed, rivetted, padlocked or E. P. Locked and provided with dunnage (in consignments susceptible to bleeding) ;

(ii) In order to localise thefts, seal checking is done at every checking point ;

(iii) Yards and Goods sheds etc. are watched round the clock by the R. P. F. ;

(iv) Trains carrying valuable commodities are escorted by the R. P. F. ;

(v) Vulnerable sectors, yards/spots are patrolled by the R. P. F. with or without arms or by R. P. F. Dog Squads ;

(vi) In order to localise bad pots, a Pilot Scheme has been introduced on selected pairs of stations on different railways, which include transshipment points, where loading and unloading of affected commodities is closely supervised ;

(vii) Plain clothes staff of R. P. F. are deployed to collect intelligence with a view to tracking down criminals ;

(viii) Special detective staff are detailed to collect intelligence regarding receivers of stolen property and raids are organised on their shops/godowns with the assistance of Police ;

(ix) Crime Intelligence staff of Railways and the Central Crime Bureau of the Railway Board are deployed to conduct surprise raids to effect red-handed arrests of the culprits ;

(x) Close co-ordination between the R. P. F. and the Government Railway Police and the Local Police is maintained at various levels to deal effectively with the criminals and receivers of stolen property ;

(xi) Special drive are conducted against

the receivers of stolen property and cases are prosecuted under the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1966 ;

(xii) Basic security measures are provided at all workshops and Stores.

INCREASE IN PRICES OF IRON AND STEEL

254. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :
SHRI NIRANJAN VARMA :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of iron and steel have recently increased considerably ;

(b) whether such increase in their prices has adversely affected the industry ;

(c) what is the percentage increase in the prices of iron during the year 1970-71 as compared to that of the year 1969-70 ; and

(d) whether there are any proposals under Government's consideration to bring down the prices of iron and steel ; and if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) The JPC prices and HSL stockyard prices of iron and steel have remained unchanged since 1.1.1970.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) JPC prices of Pig Iron were revised upwards by an average of Rs. 36.50 per tonne with effect from 1.1.1970, forming about 9% of the original average price.

(d) There is no proposal at present to bring down the JPC prices.

RECOMMENDATION OF ADVISORY BOARD ON CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

255. SHRI M. K. MOHTA :
DR. B. N. ANTANI :

Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Advisory Board on Correctional Services has made some recommendations to Government in regard to amendment of the Probation of Offenders Act and the Penal Code ; and

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations, and what is Government's decision thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI SIDDHARTHA SHANKAR RAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The question of amendment of Probation of Offenders Act has been discussed at length by the Central Advisory Board on Correctional Services as well as the earlier All India Seminar on Correctional Services. The Central Advisory Board has also recommended general revision of the Indian Penal Code. The specific recommendations on the above two aspects are as under :

(i) Section 4 of the Act might be amended so as to make it obligatory for the court to call for the report of probation officers and to facilitate adjournment of the case for a maximum period of one month to await the report in deserving cases.

(ii) Section 6 of the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958, should be amended so as to make it obligatory on court to obtain preliminary enquiry reports in all cases of first offenders.

(iii) It has been recommended that steps should be taken to get the Indian Penal Code

revised on the lines of modern reformation ideas.

The recommendations are being examined in so far as the amendment to the Indian Penal Code is concerned. The question relating to amendment of Probation of Offenders Act as recommended above, has been considered and as per advice of the Ministry of Law, circulated to the State Governments to elicit their views.

ELIMINATION OF WASTEFUL UTILISATION OF COAL

256. SHRI M. K. MOHTA :

DR. B. N. ANTANI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of coal (in tonnage) which was purchased by the railways in each of the last three financial years, and what was the average price per tonne of coal ;

(b) the quantity of coal that was actually consumed by the railways in each of the last three financial years, and what was the average mileage obtained per tonne of coal ; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government to eliminate wasteful utilisation of coal, and if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA): (a) to (c) The information is given in the statement enclosed.

STATEMENT

(a) Quantity of coal purchased and average price per tonne.

Year	Quantity in million tonnes	Average pit-head price per tonne in Rs.
1967-68	17.61	30.63
1968-69	16.58	34.17
1969-70	16.81	35.18

(b) Quantity of coal consumed and the average kilometrage obtained per tonne of coal consumed (Kilometrage is given in place of mileage as figures are compiled in metric units)

Year	Quantity of coal consumed in million tonnes	Engine Kilometres obtained per tonne of coal consumed					
		Broad Gauge			Metre Gauge		
		Passenger	Goods	Shunting	Passenger	Goods	Shunting
1967-68	16.90	29.9	16.1	28.6	46.1	27.0	50.5
1968-69	16.28	30.5	16.3	28.8	46.3	27.8	51.0
1969-70	16.08	30.0	16.4	29.1	45.7	27.5	51.3