

As regards industrial relations, in this Company, this aspect is within the purview of the State Labour Department.

INDUSTRIAL ESTATES IN PONDICHERY

1639. SHRI S. SIVAPRAKASAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Industrial Estates in the Union Territory of Pondicherry at present; and

(b) whether there is any proposal of increasing their number in 1969 ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) Three.

(b) No, Madam.

POOR OCCUPANCY OF RAJDHANI EXPRESS

1640. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rajdhani Express arrived at Delhi from Calcutta on the 11th August, 1969 with less than 25 per cent of passenger occupancy ;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of passengers could not reach Howrah station as a result of road blockade on the Howrah bridge due to processions of striking jute mill workers and also due to the approach to Howrah bridge on the Strand Road being flooded with water on account of heavy rains ; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) be in the affirmative, whether the Railway Board have issued instructions for full refund of the value of the tickets which could not be used due to such unavoidable circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) Rajdhani Express was not scheduled to arrive New Delhi from Calcutta on

the 11th August, 1969. Apparently, the train referred to is the Rajdhani Express which left Howrah on 11th August, 1969 and arrived New Delhi on the 12th August, 1969. The extent of occupation of accommodation in this train was a little over 39 per cent.

(b) 125 out of the 247 passengers who had reserved accommodation on the train, did not turn up. There was a traffic jam on Howrah bridge caused by a procession of mill workers and heavy rains in the afternoon of 11-8-1969. It is not possible to say how many among the passengers who failed to turn up were held up due to the traffic jam. Only 55 passengers have so far claimed refund of fare on the ground of traffic jam.

(c) No such instructions have been issued.

INVENTION OF IMPORT SUBSTITUTION PROCESS TO REPLACE IMPORTED COPPER BY RETIRED RAILWAY SCIENTIST

1641. SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of a remarkable import substitution process developed by retired Railway scientist to replace imported copper by indigenous aluminium in alloys used for bearings, bushes and locomotive crossheads and which has been patented (Indian Patent Specification No. 87430) and given national award by Inventions Promotion Board ;

(b) if so, what steps have the Railway Board and the Research, Development and Standards Organisation of the Railways taken so far to test the suitability of this new product for use on Indian Railways; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to bring this new import substitution product to the notice of all end-users, particularly the Chief Mechanical Engineers and Controllers of Stores in the Railways and to persuade them to use it with a view to conserving copper?