

ARIYALUR RAILWAY ACCIDENT

*292. SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the action taken by Government on the report of Ariyalur Train Accident Inquiry Commission?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): Government have accepted the findings about the cause of the accident. A statement showing the various recommendations made by the Commission for minimising the incidence of similar accidents in future together with the directive issued to the Railway Administrations and action taken thereon by the Southern Railway, is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XVIII, Annexure No. 49].

TRUNK CALL BILLS

*293. SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in many cases subscribers get trunk call bills for trunk calls not booked from their numbers;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that very often duplicate bills are received by subscribers for those trunk calls for which payment has already been made and receipt also obtained several months earlier; and

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) A few instances came to notice in which subscribers had complained of having got bills for trunk calls not actually booked from their telephones. Suitable remedial action has been taken to prevent such mistakes in future.

(b) Some complaints were also received in which subscribers were fur-

nished with duplicate copies of bill, although payment had already been made by them on the original bill. Suitable action has been taken to see that such mistakes do not arise.

(c) It is hoped that decision to decentralise telephone revenue billing work on a Circle basis will bring down such complaints. Such decentralisation has so far been effected in the case of Bihar, Assam and U.P. Circles.

CRANES LYING IDLE IN CALCUTTA PORT

*294. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many cranes have been lying idle in the Calcutta port, and for how long;

(b) the reason for their lying idle;

(c) the steps which are being taken by Government to put them in full working order; and

(d) the ratio of the number of cranes lying idle there to the number of cranes at present in working order and those actually working in that port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a), (b), (c) and (d). The Calcutta Port have a large fleet of 372 cranes of various types. None of these cranes are lying idle at present. Some of them are old and remain out of commission only during repairs and overhauls. Difficulty in obtaining spare parts occasionally contributes to delays in repairs. To obviate such delays, adequate supplies of spare parts have been ordered.

HINDI TELEPRINTERS

*295. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Hindi teleprinters are now working and on which lines;