

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Additional passenger amenities are continuously provided based on number of passengers handled at the station and need and expectations of the travelling public. Works in this regard are sanctioned through Annual Works Programme of the Railway every year.

(c) Rs. 200 crore.

Encroachment of Railway land

2955. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the zone-wise area of Railway land lying vacant;
- (b) whether a large area of Railway land is not being utilised;
- (c) if so, the area of Railway land under illegal encroachments; and
- (d) the action being taken by Government to vacate such encroachments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) Information *if* being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Murder of gate-keepers

2956. SHRI KA. RA. SUBBIAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report appearing in the Indian Express dated 29th November, 2000 regarding murder of two gate-keepers in less than a week at different

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[15 December, 2000] RAJYA SABHA

level-crossing in Uttar Pradesh, if so, what are the reasons for these murders;

(b) the reasons for which the Railway Staff are not willing to man the level-crossings, especially during the night;

(c) whether according to Railway officials, the murders could be related to theft of Railway property; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken, based on this report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The details are given as under:—

(i) On the night of 23/24.10.2000, on duty gateman under CPWI/Hardoi was murdered at gate No. 275-C in between Railway Stations Hardoi and Kama. A case on Crime No. 216/2000 U/S 302 IPC and 3/4 SC/ST act was registered at PS/Kotwali Dehat, Hardoi against three accused.

(ii) On the night of 27/28.10.2000, on duty gateman under PWI/Bulandshahar has been murdered by unknown persons at Gate No. 50-C in between Railway Stations Hapur and Meerut. Police Station/Kharkhauda has registered a case U/S 302 IPC.

(b) Murder has caused scare amongst the gatemen in the areas specially those performing duty at night.

(c) No, Sir. Murder could not be related to theft as no report of theft has been received.

(d) Does not arise.