

(b) if so, by when and the latest development in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BAN DARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Block Proving Axle Counters in Railways

1152. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Khanna Accident Enquiry Committee in its Report in 1998, had recommended to instal Block Proving Axle Counters section-wise, to detect presence of a vehicle at a defined length on a railway track;

(b) if so, the reasons for failure to detect the inspection trolley at Nabagram, about 69 km from Kolkata, where the Sealdah bound Rajdhani Express collided with the said trolley, recently; and

(c) the action Government propose to take to ensure that the recommendations made by Commissions on Railway Safety are implemented, in letter and spirit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) The system of Block Proving by Axle Counter is designed so as not to detect the presence of a push trolley. The push trolley is lighter in weight and is frequently kept on and off the track during inspections.

(c) The recommendations of Commissions on Railway Safety, as accepted by the Ministry of Railways, are implemented in a phased manner as per availability of funds.

Pantry services in TN and GT Express

1153. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the pantry services in the Tamil Nadu Express and Grant Trunk Express are poor and the quality of food served is not good;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken against the persons responsible for such poor pantry services; and

(c) the action taken to improve pantry services in the above trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI

BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) There are a few complaints. Disciplinary action is taken against the staff responsible.

(c) Monitoring of services through inspections, introduction of rotational menu and quality checks are made from time to time.

Zonal/Divisional Offices in South Eastern Railway

1154. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Railway Zonal Office at Bilaspur and Divisional Office at Raipur under South-Eastern Railway are likely to come into existence; and

(b) whether any difficulties are being faced in starting the offices; if so, the details of action taken to *clear* these difficulties and if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Railway Zonal Office at Bilaspur named South East Central Railway and a Divisional Office at Raipur shall be functional *w.e.f.* 01.04.2003. Notifications to this effect have already been issued.

(b) No, Sir. Action is being taken to operationalise these offices as schedule on 01.04.2003,

Unsafe rail travel for women

1155. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rail travel is increasingly becoming unsafe for women;

(b) if so, the number of incidents against women on trains during the last three years;

(c) the number of persons booked for offences against women on trains during the same period; and

(d) the measures contemplated for safe travel of women on trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) The maintenance of law and order and the security of passengers and their belongings in the running trains and Railway premises is the constitutional responsibility of the State Government concerned. The cases of crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by