

November, 1977 in connection with his Department and if so, the content thereof and action taken or proposed to be taken against those who failed in providing protection and accommodation and who are alleged to be guilty of the charges of corruption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): Yes. According to the news and the complaint received by the Government, a party of girl students of Jogamaya Devi College, Calcutta, while travelling by 61 UP Janata Express on 30th October 1977 between Howrah and Dehra Dun and 10 Dn. Dehra Dun Express on 7th November 1977 between Dehra Dun and Howrah were put to inconvenience due to un-authorised entry of anti-social elements in their compartment, non-provision of reservation, harassment and rude behaviour by the railway staff enroute.

An enquiry is being conducted and defaulting officials will be suitably dealt with as per findings of the enquiry. Meanwhile, two travelling ticket examiners have been placed under suspension. The Railway Administration have also expressed their regret to the Principal, Jogmaya Devi College, Calcutta, over this incident. This apart, a sum of Rs. 170/- alleged to have been taken from the party by the railway staff has been refunded.

छोटी लाइन का बड़ी लाइन में बदला जाना

4584. श्री अमर सिंह बी० राठवां : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मिर्यागाम से छोटा उदेपुर नैरोगेज रेल लाइन को बड़ी लाइन में बदलने का कोई प्रस्ताव है; और

(ख) क्या खंडवा रेल लाइन को छोटा उदेपुर से जोड़ने का कोई प्रस्ताव है

और यदि हां तो उस पर कब तक कार्य शुरू किया जायेगा ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री शिव नारायण) : (क) अलाभप्रद शाखा लाइन समिति की सिफारिशों के आधार पर छोटा उदेपुर-छुछापुड़ा-डभोई-प्रतापनगर और छुछापुड़ा टन्खाला छोटी लाइन खण्डों को बड़ी लाइन में बदलने के लिए यातायात सर्वेक्षण करने के सम्बन्ध में आदेश नवम्बर 1970 में दिये गये थे। सर्वेक्षण रिपोर्ट से पता चला था कि उक्त क्षेत्र की परिवहन सम्बन्धी आवश्यकताओं को मौजूदा छोटी लाइन द्वारा पूरी तरह पूरा किया जा सकता है। चूंकि आमान परिवर्तन अलाभप्रद होगा इसलिए यह निश्चय किया गया था कि फिजहाल इस परियोजना को शुरू न किया जायें। मिर्यागाम और डभोई के बीच छोटी लाइन को बड़ी लाइन में बदलने के लिए कोई सर्वेक्षण नहीं किया गया है।

(ख) रेल मार्ग द्वारा खण्डवा को छोटा उदेपुर से मिलाने के लिए कोई प्रस्ताव विचाराधीन नहीं है।

'B' Grade Driver to Man Deluxe Train which met with Accident at Naini

4585, SHRI R. N. RAKESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shri Nand Kumar Sharma, a 'B' grade Driver was given the work of senior 'A' class driver to man De-luxe train which met with a serious accident at "Naini" over Allahabad Division if so, reasons;

(b) whether it is a fact that Shri Nand Kumar Sharma was a passenger train driver and was running train faster than the prescribed speed limits in the marshalling yard; and

c) whether there was any shortage 'A' class Drivers and if so, how many 'B' grade drivers were utilised against the vacancy of 'A' class drivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) De-xe trains are normally worked by 'A' Grade drivers. However, leave reserves against 'A' Grade drivers are provided from 'B' Grade drivers. Shri and Kumar Sharma, a 'B' Grade driver, was deputed to work the De-xe train because of absence of 'A' grade drivers due to leave, sickness, medical examination, etc.

(b) No.

(c) No.

Goods/Passenger Trains' Accidents on Allahabad Division

4586. SHRI SHIV NARAIN SARSONIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of goods/passenger trains met with accident on Allahabad Division of the Northern Railway during the last one year;

(b) the number of persons injured and killed during the relevant period and compensation paid to them and extent to which the damage caused to railway property and loss sustained; and

(c) what steps the Government proposes to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) During the last one year i.e., from December, 1976 to November, 77, there were 7 train accidents in the categories of collisions, derailments, level crossings accidents and fires in trains.

(b) In these accidents, 60 persons were killed and 107 injured. The cost

of damage to railway property has been estimated at approximately Rs. 81,67,760]-;

No compensation has so far been paid to the victims or their legal heirs, of these accidents as the claims for compensation are pending in the Courts of Ad hoc Claims Commissioners/ex-officio Claims Commissioners. Payments will be arranged by the Railway Administration on the basis of the verdict of the Court without any delay.

The question regarding payment of necessary compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 in the case of 7 railway employees who were killed in these accidents while on duty is under active consideration of the Railway Administration. Eight railway employees who were grievously injured in these accidents while on duty, are still under medical treatment and necessary compensation will be paid in these cases under the said Act after the loss in their earning capacity is determined.

(c) Since failure of railway staff is the largest single factor responsible for the accidents a nation wide safety drive has been launched since 24th October, 1977 to create greater safety consciousness amongst the staff connected with the running of trains and to ensure that staff did not violate rules and indulge in short-cut methods. In order to reduce dependence on the human element, various sophisticated aids like ultrasonic flaw detectors for wheels, axles and rails, track circuiting automatic warning system etc., are being introduced progressively.

Training of Apprentices in Clerical grade by Railways

4587. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of apprentices in the clerical grade who were given