

differential, that is *vis-a-vis* the rupee and the rouble or is some effort being made to rectify the differential between the rupee and the rouble in parity with world prices.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : It seems my hon. friend, Shri Piloo Mody, will have to teach me mathematics all over again to prove how.....

SHRI PILOO MODY : I have tried three times in the past.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : As I was going to say, the trend from the past will have to be reversed. But I do not think that the statement made by the hon. Member is quite correct. There is nothing to establish that the parity of the rupee *vis-a-vis* the rouble has been anything different than the parity *vis-a-vis* other currencies after devaluation.

THEFT OF RAILWAY PROPERTY

*333. **SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of theft of Railway property and other crimes have considerably increased in the trains and the railway premises;

(b) whether the State Governments have shown their inability to spare any more resources for checking crime on railways in their jurisdiction; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to strengthen the railway police for combating the crime ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) There has been an increase in cases of theft of Railway property and other crimes on Railways.

(b) and (c). The matter was recently discussed with the Chief Ministers, who have assured full co-operation. Some of the Chief Ministers, have however, pointed out that lack of adequate financial resources stood in the way of an increase in the strength of police forces. Necessary steps are being taken to analyse crime incidents particularly in certain notorious sections of the Railways,

so that the State Governments concerned could be requested to augment the strength of the Government Railway Police.

श्री यज्ञ दत्त शर्मा : मंत्री महोदय जानते हैं कि रेलों के अन्दर किस हद तक चोरियां बढ़ रही हैं। मुगलसराय में यह पिछली बार अखबारों में छपा था कि लगभग 1 लाख रुपये की रोज चोरी हो रही है और इसी प्रकार से अमृतसर स्टेशन के ऊपर आज से बहुत समय पहले सी० बी० आई० ने भी उस की जांच की, बहुत-से हमारे रेलगाड़ी के डिब्बे, कोयला और रेलों के पुर्जें चोरी हुए। इस सारी स्थिति की भूमिका में मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो रेल कर्मचारी इस प्रकार की चोरियों की सूचना रेल विभाग को देते हैं या ऊपर के अधिकारियों को देते हैं, वस्तुस्थिति यह है कि ऐसे कर्मचारियों को नौकरशाही, जो इस घोटाले के अन्दर हिस्सेदार है, दण्ड देती है, उन को डिमोट कर दिया जाता है या ट्रांसफर कर दिया जाता है, इसलिये जो कर्मचारी ऐसी सूचना देते हैं, उस सूचना के आधार पर एक तो इस की विशेष प्रकार की जांच और इस प्रकार की चोरी सम्बन्धी कार्य-वाहियों की तह तक जाने की कोई एजेंसी तथा ऐसी सूचना देने वाले कर्मचारियों को प्रोत्साहन की कोई व्यवस्था रेल विभाग में करेंगे क्या ?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : We have a special agency with the Railways to collect all the necessary intelligence in this regard. There is also the State Government intelligence Department working side by side. It is a fact that so far as the State Government Police, that is, the Government Railway Police, is concerned, the order branch of G.R.P. is sufficiently adequate while the crime branch of G.R.P. is not adequate. This point was made at the State Chief Ministers Conference and this was discussed. They have agreed to take necessary steps to improve the strength of the G.R.P. on the crimes branch side. As regards certain infor-

mation that come to us from various sources, we take prompt action. In this regard, it would be interesting to know that we have the Railway Property Unlawful Possession Act of 1966 brought into force from 1-4-68, this year, and during this 3 months period, the Railway Magistrates have taken up as many as 761, cases out of 1571 registered, and about 1980 persons have been arrested in this connection. We have our own magistracy, our own prosecuting officer under the Act. We are now taking necessary action to deal with this increasing incidence of thefts and crimes.

श्री यश दत्त शर्मा : मंत्री महोदय से मैं एक बात खास तौर से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो रेलवे कर्मचारी इस प्रकार की चोरियों की सूचना आप को देते हैं उन को कोई विशेष प्रोत्साहन देने की आप व्यवस्था करेंगे क्योंकि उन को अगर एन्करेजमेन्ट करेंगे तो आप की किसी भी एजेंसी से वह ज्यादा शक्तिशाली एजेंसी सिद्ध होगी ? जो आप को इस प्रकार की कोई सूचना देते हैं उन को एन्करेजमेन्ट की क्या कोई व्यवस्था होगी और उन को विभाग के अन्दर जो इस प्रकार की ऐंटी सोशल मशीनरी तंग करती है उन से बचाव की कोई व्यवस्था करेंगे ?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : We have a system of rewarding people who give us valuable information not only in this connection but in respect of other matters too.

श्री क० ना० तिवारी : कितना रुपया केन्द्रीय सरकार प्रान्तों को जी० आर० पी० के लिये देती है और क्या यह सही है कि जो रेलवे के फ़ाइम्स होते हैं, वेपट वगैरह के, उन को वही प्रायॉरिटी नहीं दी जाती जो कि प्रान्तों में चोरी वगैरह या दूसरे मामलों में दी जाती है ?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : I could not subscribe to that view. As a matter of fact, State Governments are extending all possible assistance in this regard. So far as the order branch, as

I referred to earlier, is concerned, we meet the expenditure incurred by the State Governments in that regard. So far as the crime branch is concerned it is the responsibility of the State Governments because all these things will have to be taken due cognizance of under the I.P.C. It does not fall within the purview of the Railway administration.

श्री सत्यनारायण सिंह : क्या यह बात सही नहीं है कि प्रोत्साहन देने की बात तो दूर रही, ऐसे कर्मचारी जो कि रेलवे के माल को इधर-उधर करते हैं, उसे बरबाद करते हैं, चोरी करते हैं, ऐसे लोगों के बारे में बार-बार शिकायत लिखने के बावजूद भी ऊपर बैठे हुए लोग उन की रक्षा करते हैं और उन को तरक्की देते हैं ?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : Such things have not come to my notice. If my hon. friend has any specific information, I would be very happy to have it.

श्री शिव नारायण : मैं रेलवे मिनिस्टर से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि जब से आप ने पुलिस और बढ़ायी है तब से फ़ाइम ज्यादा बढ़ा या कम हुआ ? मैं एक एग्जाम्पल देना चाहता हूँ कि पिछली बार जब मैं गया तो दो बजे रात को बस्ती स्टेशन पर उतरा। वहां आप का टी० टी० बाबू और पुलिस वाले या दोनों मिल कर एक बम्बई वाले को हैरेस कर रहे थे। मैंने इंटरवीन किया तो वह बड़ा लाल-गरम हुआ। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ हमारे पास आफिसर्स हैं जो लिख कर देने को तैयार हैं लेकिन इस रेलवे विभाग में कोई चैक करने वाला नहीं है।

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : I am sure my hon. friend would have brought this fact to the notice of the authorities concerned for necessary action.

श्री शिव नारायण : अरे, उस का तो जवाब दीजिये कि फ़ाइम बढ़ा या घटा ?

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN : I would like to know whether it is not a fact that since the inception of the Railway Protection Force, the pilferage in the Railways has increased. I would also like to know whether it is not a fact, after the Railway Protection Force came into force, that State Governments have lost their initiative in tackling this problem of Railways because they thought that it is the responsibility of the Centre since they have got their own Protection Force. Thirdly, I would like to know, taking into consideration the past experience, whether the Government propose to consider the whole matter and to entrust the responsibility fully to the States meeting the finances involved in that.

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : Answering the last part of the question, we have a high-powered committee. My hon. friend, Shri Shantilal Shah is the Chairman of that committee. They are going into this matter and the report is likely to be received by 15th September. On receipt of that report, necessary steps will be taken after giving due consideration to the recommendations.

So far as RPF and GRP are concerned, I must say that the GRP has never disowned its responsibility merely because the RPF has come into existence. The RPF is a watch and ward organisation of the railways to guard its own properties and to do certain special duties. The GRP has not absolved itself of its responsibility. But the fact remains that but for the RPF probably the incidence of theft and other things would have been much higher.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN : What about my pointed query whether there has been an increase in theft and other things after the RPF came into being ?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : There is a general increase in so far as incidence of thefts and crimes are concerned.

श्री राजशेखर प्रसाद सिंह : मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि पिछले

एक साल में कितने की चोरी रेलवे में हुई और सब से ज्यादा किस प्रदेश में हुई ?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : बिहार में ।

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : It do not have the break-up, but I can give the all-India figure.

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Ranen Sen.

DR. RANEN SEN : It is known that a section of the railway employees is also involved in these pilferages; at least there is some collusion with these thefts and other things. Apart from that, may I know why it takes a long time for the Railway authorities to replace the articles and goods stolen from railway carriages? Why should the travelling public be penalised for the negligence on the part of Railway Protection Force ?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : It is true that some of the railway employees are themselves involved in these thefts and other things. According to the figures I have, during the last three months, after the introduction of the new Act, out of 1980 persons arrested, 344 were railway employees and 38 were RPF personnel. (*Interruptions*) All possible steps are being taken to prevent the increase in the involvement of railway employees themselves in these operations.

As for the replacement programme, as and when thefts take place, we make all efforts to replace them, but at times it becomes physically difficult to make quick replacements of the things that are stolen continuously on running trains particularly. (*Interruptions*).

DR. RANEN SEN : It is difficult to replace electric bulbs !

SHRI NATH PAI : Out of 300 railway employees, how many are from the Railway Board ? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : None.

SHRI NATH PAI : Please clarify how many from the Railway Board are involved.

SHRI C. M. POONACHA rose—

MR. SPEAKER : You need not answer that.

SHRI SONAVANE : I want to know whether, after the introduction of this Act, Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act, the Railway Police or the RPF have *suo motu* searched any suspected employees, Class II or Class IV or officials of railway workshops who often indulge in such kinds of things.

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : Yes, Sir; there have been many searches.

श्री रवि राय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप जानते हैं कि उपाध्याय जी को रेल में यात्रा करते समय मार डाला गया। हमारे माननीय सदस्य श्री दासपा साहब जो मैसूर से आये हैं, उन्होंने बतलाया कि पिछले महीने जब वह अपनी छोटी लड़की के साथ रेल में यात्रा कर रहे थे, उनका 3 हजार रुपये का समान चोरी चला गया। क्या उनकी ओर से कोई मेमोरेण्डम आपके पास आया है, यदि आया है तो उस सिलसिले में आपने क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : We have received a complaint in this regard and the matter is being looked into and the GRP are making investigations.

श्री सीता राम केसरी : बरौनी स्टेशन, हमारे प्रदेश में एक बहुत इम्पॉर्टेंट जंक्शन है जहां हजारों पैसेंजर रोज चढ़ते-उतरते हैं। वहां पर दो तरह के कुली हैं—एक एप्रूव्ड और दूसरे एप्रूव्ड नहीं हैं, लेकिन उनको भी प्लेटफार्म पर एलाऊ किया जाता है। क्या मंत्री महोदय को मालूम है जो अन-एप्रूव्ड कुली हैं, वे बरौनी स्टेशन पर माल चुराते हैं, जिसकी वजह से हर रोज 10-15 यात्रियों का माल चोरी जाता है तथा इस के

कारे में भारी आन्दोलन भी चल चुका है। क्या आपके पास इस के सम्बन्ध में कोई स्मरण-पत्र आया है ? क्या आपने वहां के अनएप्रूव्ड कुलियों को हटाने, वहां पर कुलियों की संख्या बढ़ाने तथा क्राइम को कम करने के लिये कोई योजना बनाई है या कोई एक्शन लिया है ?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : The railway concerned has been instructed to keep a very close watch with regard to unauthorised persons coming into the platform and other premises to handle goods transshipment; they are not being permitted to enter the railway premises and I am sure the railway concerned would have taken necessary action.

SHRI LOBO PRABHU : Thefts in railways occur in the coaches, on the line and in the goods-shed. There are officials in charge of each of these three sections. The question that I would like to ask of the Minister is this. Although the police have a responsibility, it is subsidiary and subsequent to the responsibility of the officials concerned. Has the Minister considered why an explanation from the officials concerned in the watch and ward of these three sections is not enforced, why there is no drill asking for an explanation whether they had taken the necessary precautions and where they had defaulted? Until that is done, until the responsibility is fixed at that stage, I think, thefts would not decrease.

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : Most of the thefts take place at the yards—the yards are big areas protected with fences. So, thefts take place in the yards. We have armed patrolling there; we have now pressed the police dogs also to go round; and have had good results after we have introduced this armed patrolling as well as the dog squad patrolling round the night. Officers in charge are, of course, responsible, but the hon. Member will perhaps realise the fact that railway work is done round the clock and it is not as if one officer is working there throughout; three or four work per day by

shifts. As such, on whom could the precise responsibility be fixed? It is not that simple as the hon. Member envisages.

SHRI HEM BARUA : I wanted to have some information from you. Your worthy predecessor, Shri Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, once said in this House that somebody sent him two cases of mangoes and that the cases were all right, but there was not even a single mango inside. Have things improved during your tenure in any way?

MR. SPEAKER : I would request Mr. Hem Barua to send me one basket of mangoes and I will be able to report about it.

श्री शिवचरण लाल : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं रेलवे मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहूंगा कि क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली से फर्रुखाबाद जो पैसेंजर गाड़ी जाती है, उसमें प्रतिदिन चोरी होती है और यात्रियों को दिन-दहाड़े लूट लिया जाता है, तथा उस गाड़ी के साथ गार्ड व सुरक्षा दल साथ नहीं चलता? यदि हां, तो सरकार ने इन घटनाओं को रोकने के लिये क्या कदम उठाये हैं?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : On this sector as well as on some other notorious sectors, we have the incidence of such thefts on the increase, and the State Governments have recently agreed to post armed guards on the running trains.

३० इ० अहमद : हज़ारी बाग रोड और पारसनाथ स्टेशनों के बीच में दो स्टेशन पड़ते हैं—चिचारी और चौधरी बांघ—वहाँ पर वैनो को रोक कर चावल की बोरियां और दूसरी चीजें उतार ली जाती हैं, एक मर्तबा बाटा का जूता उतार लिया गया, जो बाद में बाजारों में बिका। इस चोरी को रोकने के लिये क्या कोई खास इन्तजाम सरकार की तरफ से किया गया है?

श्री श्रीचन्द्र गोयल : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने प्रश्न का उत्तर देते हुए कहा है कि कुछ प्रदेशों के मुख्य मंत्रियों ने अपनी

असमर्थता प्रकट की है—इन चोरियों को रोकने के लिये। जब तक उन को केन्द्र से कुछ वित्तीय सहायता नहीं मिलेगी, वे इन चोरियों को रोकने में पूरा सहयोग नहीं दे पायेंगे। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि पिछले वर्ष ऐसी चोरियों के कारण यानी रेलवे सम्पत्ति की चोरी के कारण और उसके अतिरिक्त जो माल रेलवे द्वारा यातायात होता है उसमें भी चोरी होती है, उसके कारण रेलवे विभाग पर जनता का विश्वास नहीं बनता और उससे रेलवे को घाटा हो रहा है तो क्या इस घाटे को रोकने के लिये और रेलवे सम्पत्ति की चोरी को रोकने के लिये केन्द्र उन प्रदेशों को सहायता देगा, ताकि वे पूरा सहयोग दे सकें?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : The matter is under consideration.

MR. SPEAKER : Next question. Q. No. 334.

श्री हुकम चन्दा कछबाय : इसके साथ प्र० सं० 335 व 341 को भी ले लिया जाये।

MR. SPEAKER : Q. No. 335 may be answered along with Q. 334. But Q. No. 341 is different. There is three years' difference between the two sets of questions.

INDIAN GOODS AND EQUIPMENT HELD BY PAKISTAN

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*334. **SHRI YASHPAL SINGH :**
SHRI BABURAO PATEL :
SHRI NIHAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is still having in her possession the goods and other equipment which were captured by them during the Indo-Pakistan conflict of 1965;

(b) if so, the nature of the goods held and the value thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to get back the same?