

Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
 Shri Kolla Venkaiah:
 Shri N. R. Laskar:
 Shri Liladhar Kotoki:
 Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:
 Shri Madhu Limaye:
 Shri Shree Narayan Das:
 Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:
 Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:
 Shri Ravindra Varma:
 Shrimati Ramdulari Sinha:
 Shri Gokulananda Mohanty:
 Dr. P. Srinivasan:
 Shri Gulshan:
 Shri M. R. Kriahna
 Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether an urgent conference of top officials of the Zonal Railways was held in Delhi in June last to discuss the situation arising out of the repeated accidents in May and June, 1966;

(b) what was the agenda; and

(c) what remedies have been devised to eliminate these rail accidents in future?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Conference was convened to discuss ways and means to minimise the incidence of such accidents.

(c) The views expressed by the participants in the Conference consisted mainly of renewed emphasis on well-known accident-prevention measures such as, training, inspection and discipline among staff concerned with movement of trains, track-circuiting and staff welfare measures. Necessary action on these lines is being taken.

Railway Accidents

*555. Shri A. N. Vidyalankar:
 Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has seen the statements issued by a number of Trade Union Leaders that one of the contributory causes for the increasing number of Rail-

way accidents was the enormous workload which had increased on the Railways and its staff, while the increase in the line capacity, equipment and the staff had not been commensurate with the increase of the work-load;

(b) whether Government propose to institute an independent investigation about his position; and

(c) whether it is a fact that because of over-work and insistence on speed, the members of the Railway staff do away with many provisions of rules that were framed to ensure safety?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Several statements have been issued by a number of Trade Union Leaders. It is not known to what statement or statements the Hon. Members are referring.

(b) No, Sir The workload is examined and the position in this regard is reviewed as may be necessary. Increase in the staff strength and in the line capacity is made and also additional equipments are provided on a priority basis subject to the availability of resources.

(c) No, Sir.

Geological Survey of India

*556. Shri Karni Singhji: Will the Minister of Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of trained personnel, drilling equipments and laboratory facilities with the Geological Survey of India; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to meet the requirements of the Geological Survey of India in this behalf?

The Minister of Mines and Metals (Shri S. K. Dey): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Negotiations are in progress for import of drilling rigs and ancilliary equipment from Canada also from East European countries and other sources. Efforts are being made to augment laboratory equipment, facilities for training and recruitment of technical staff subject to the rather severe limitations of the budget.