

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by the authorities to avoid over-billing?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan):

(a) There has not been a large number of complaints. Compared to several thousands of bills issued every month, the number of complaints of over-billing received is of a very insignificant percentage.

(b) Cases which are brought to notice are however investigated and necessary action is taken.

Bullock Power Project at Khanpur Village

***180. Shri Achar:** Will the Minister of Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the bullock power project started in Khanpur village in Delhi state is not proving a success; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Ford Foundation has stopped the working of the generator, the pump, the workshop and the brick kiln?

The Deputy Minister of Community Development and Cooperation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The Khanpur project for testing bullock-powered appliances for village use is still under research and development and the project has by no means been abandoned.

Delhi-Moscow Radio-Teleprinter Link

***181.** { **Shri Sadhan Gupta:**
Shri Madhusudan Rao:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Radio-Teleprinter link has been established between New Delhi and Moscow for the exchange of Meteorological data;

(b) if so, whether similar links will be established with other countries also; and

(c) the countries with which such links will be established and the proposed date by which each such link will be established?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan):

(a) Not yet, Sir. It is proposed to establish a Radio-Teleprinter link between New Delhi and Moscow for the exchange of meteorological data from the 1st January, 1960.

(b) and (c). The establishment of a similar link with Tokyo is under consideration. It is likely to be established by March, 1961.

Indo-U.S. Air Service

***182.** { **Shri Kamal Singh:**
Shri Ignace Beck:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 790 on the 25th August, 1959 and state:

(a) whether a reply has since been received from the U.S. Government regarding the extension of flight of Air India International to U.S.A.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Air India International has been granted a permit by the U.S. Civil Aeronautics Board to operate air services from India *via* West Asia, Europe, and Canada to New York.

Movement of Khandisari

***183.** { **Shri Gangadhara Siva:**
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the removal of ban on the Inter-State movement of

Khandsari sugar when the ban was not removed on sugar; and

(b) the price of Khandsari in the month of October, and till the 15th November, 1959 week-wise in Uttar Pradesh?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) The ban on export of khandsari sugar from Uttar Pradesh was removed on 1-10-1959 as there were reports of accumulation of stocks, in excess of local requirements and demands from other States.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table [See Appendix I, annexure No. 59.]

Robbery in Train

*184. Shri Halder: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two women were robbed in a running train between Amritsar and Jullundur on the evening of the 2nd November 1959;

(b) whether a woman traveller was assaulted in a Second Class compartment between Jullundur and Hamira on the same night; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to check these kinds of incidents?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes. The incident occurred on the evening of 1-11-1959, at about 7 p.m.

(b) No such report has been received.

(c) The following preventive measures are being taken:—

- (1) Escorts are sent almost on all night passenger trains;
- (2) Reservation of accommodation for escorts is being made in the centre of the train possibly next to ladies compartment;

(3) Patrolling has been intensified;

(4) Surprise checks of patrol and trains are carried out by Special Squads and Senior officers at night;

(5) Police pickets are arranged at important check points and large scale rounds carried out;

(6) Frequent joint meetings of G.R.P., Civil Police and R.P.F. to take preventive measures over crime are being held periodically;

(7) Safety devices have been provided in carriages so that they cannot be reached from outside the compartments, such as iron bars across windows, internal door latches and bolts, internal catches on window shutters;

(8) Ladies compartments are marshalled as far as possible in the middle of the train;

(9) Conductor Guards and TTEs have instructions to pay special attention to lady passengers particularly when travelling alone and to ensure that safety devices in the compartments are in working order;

(10) Ladies travelling alone in higher classes are allowed to take an attendant with a 3rd class ticket with them during night time;

(11) Passengers have instructions to see that the latches and catches of doors and windows are secured to prevent entry of unauthorised persons;

(12) Announcements are made through loud speakers and through notices warning the passengers to be alert and beware of pick pockets and other anti-social elements;

(13) Section 108 of Indian Railways Act has been amended;