

(c) How much worth of goods were damaged?

(d) What precautions have been taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future?

(e) Have Government made inquiry in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Presumably, the reference is to an incident at the Sealdah North station on the 6th February 1953. If so, the answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The late arrival of a local train by about 18 minutes.

(c) The damage is estimated to cost the Railway about Rs. 60/-.

(d) and (e). The matter is under investigation and adequate action will be taken in the light of these investigations.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : इस में कोई केस चालान भी किया गया है ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : नौ आदमियों को गिरफ्तार किया गया है ।

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : उन का चालान हुआ था ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : पुलिस ने गिरफ्तार किया था और उन्हीं को चालान करना है ।

सरदार ए० एस० सहगल : कितने दिनों बाद यह रिपोर्ट शायी कर दी जायेगी ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : जब लोग रेलवे स्टेशन पर फिसाद करने के सिलसिले में गिरफ्तार होते हैं तब यह ला एण्ड आडर की प्राब्लेम होती है जिस को कि पुलिस डील करती है । जब वह खुद फंसला करेंगे तो आप को इत्तला मिल जायेगी ।

सरदार ए० एस० सहगल : मैं ने आप से अर्ज किया कि कितने दिनों बाद यह रिपोर्ट शायी कर दी जायेगी ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : यह पुलिस की इन्क्वायरी पर मुन्हसर है, मैं इस के बारे में कुछ नहीं कह सकता ।

Shri Punnoose: I do not know what has happened. I want to ask a question. May I know whether police were called when this raid took place?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: There was a police force of four constables at the Railway station. A mob of about 600 people attacked the station master and entered his office. The four men made first a mild lathi charge. Later on more police reinforcements were called.

Shri Punnoose: Was there any casualty?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: No.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know if these trains come late regularly or whether this was one case where the train was late?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It was just one isolated case.

Shri Nambiar: How can the late arrival of a train and the attack on the station master be linked together? It requires clarification.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We will not argue. Thieves and raiders have their own ways.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: The question is this. Is it a fact that many of these trains which bring in these clerks have been coming late and certain clerks have been given notice by their employers?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: As I said before, it was an isolated case. The reason for this delay was that the inter-locking gear went out of order as a result of which the train was detained for about 18 minutes.

ACCIDENTS IN COAL-FIELDS

***727. Shri Vittal Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the number of fatal accidents that occurred in the coal-fields in India during the year 1952?

(b) What are the steps that have been taken by the Chief Inspector of Mines for reducing the accidents in the fields?

(c) How far have those been implemented in the collieries, the names of the collieries that have yet to imple-

ment the instructions of the Chief Inspector of Mines?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) 288.

(b) and (c). Enquiries were held into all these fatal accidents by the Department of Mines. The safety of all the operations carried on in mines is governed by the Mines Act, and the regulations, rules and bye-laws framed thereunder, which are quite comprehensive. Inspections were made to enforce these provisions and action taken against offenders. In the light of this, no question of lack of implementation of any instruction of the Chief Inspector of Mines arises.

Shri Vittal Rao: May I know the number of cases wherein prosecutions were launched against pit managers for dereliction of duty?

Shri V. V. Giri: There have been many prosecutions

Shri Vittal Rao: May I know in how many cases enquiries were conducted by visiting the actual place of accident underground and the number of cases where enquiry was conducted on the surface with the aid of maps?

Shri V. V. Giri: I would like to have notice.

Shri Raghavaiah: May I know whether these accidents are on the increase or on the decrease?

Shri V. V. Giri: I think, on the decrease.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Question—hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

TIS HAZARI TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

*716. **Shri K. G. Deshmukh:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) what is the initial capacity of providing telephone lines, of the new Telephone Exchange, opened in Old Delhi on the 24th January, 1953; and

(b) whether this new Telephone Exchange will fulfil the needs of the people from that area?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 2,990 lines; the capacity will be increased to 4,000 lines by the middle of the current year.

(b) Not fully.

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GORAKHPUR—THUTHIBARI RAILWAY LINE

*728. **Shri H. S. Prasad:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether the Railway Ministry have received a proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for the opening of a Railway line from Gorakhpur to Thuthibari via Mahrajganj?

(b) If so, do Government propose to construct the said Railway line?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) Not at present

ENFORCEMENT OF PROVIDENT FUND SCHEME

*729. **Shri K. Subrahmanyam:** (a) Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state whether Government consider embroidery mills as part and parcel of the textile industry or not?

(b) Is it a fact that the only two embroidery mills in India are situated in Chheharta in Amritsar District?

(c) Is it a fact that both these mills have not enforced the Provident Fund Scheme despite the repeated demands of the workers?

(d) Is it also a fact that protests by workers to the Labour Commissioner did not also have any effect?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Yes.

(b) No. In addition to the two embroidery mills situated in Chheharta in Amritsar District, there is also one embroidery mill at Delhi.

(c) No. It has been reported that Provident Fund schemes on the lines of the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952—but offering more liberal terms to the employees have been introduced in the embroidery mills at Chheharta and collection of provident fund contributions started from November, 1952.

(d) Does not arise.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS IN CHITTORGARH DISTRICT

*730. **Shri U. M. Trivedi:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state what steps have been taken to extend telegraphic communications in Chittorgarh District?

(b) Is it a fact that for people living in the sub-division of Begun the nearest telegraph office is at a distance of 50 miles?