

(b) the steps taken to develop the stations and to give wide publicity to them; and

(c) the amount of subsidy, if any, sanctioned to local Tourist Advisory Committees?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) A list of important hill stations considered suitable for development of tourist traffic is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 31.]

(b) The steps taken by Government to develop the hill stations include:—

- (i) issue of concessional return railway tickets for the season;
- (ii) publication of guide books, pamphlets, posters, etc.; and
- (iii) exhibition of films.

(c) No subsidy has been sanctioned to any Tourist Bureau or Local Advisory Committee.

#### SAFETY IN LADIES' COMPARTMENTS

\*1204. **Shrimati Sushama Sen:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what effective steps Government contemplate for checking incidents of assaults and robbery in ladies' compartments in Railways?

(b) Are any safety devices contemplated by the Railway authorities to ensure safe travelling of ladies and children?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) Steps have already been taken towards this end and include:

- (i) provision of armed escorts on important passenger trains;
- (ii) fixing of iron bars to windows and safety latches to doors of train compartments;
- (iii) positioning of ladies compartments in the centre of trains, as far as possible; and

(iv) permission to ladies travelling alone at night to take one female servant or companion in a higher class with a 3rd class ticket.

(b) It has been recently decided—

- (i) to increase the number of bars from 3 to 4 per window in all compartments; and
- (ii) to further secure the lavatory windows by welding a flat bar in the middle on the existing window bars and make the window bar assembly tamper-proof from outside by rivetting mushroom head bolts over the nuts as the coaches pass through shops for periodical overhaul repairs (P.O.H.).

#### PRIVATE RAILWAY SIDINGS

\*1205. **Pandit Lingaraj Misra:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received applications from certain Orissa Mine Owners who are willing to bear the entire cost of private assisted siding; and

(b) if so, what decision Government have taken in the matter?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Ten applications were received during the last three months but it is not known whether the applicants are mine owners. Of these applications two have been rejected and others are still under examination.

#### LABOUR APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

\*1206 { **Shrimati Sucheta Kripalank**  
**Shri Raghavachari:**

Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bank Employees in India have demanded the appointment of a person enjoying their confidence on the Labour Appellate Tri-