

LIAQUAT ALI MEMORIAL FUND

*175. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received by the Government of India of forcible realizations of donations for Liaquat Ali Memorial Fund from Hindu Railway passengers by Ansars of East Bengal at Darsana Railway Station; and

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

ROBBERIES IN TRAINS

*176. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the number of robberies in running trains in the six Railway zones have decreased since 1st July of this year compared to the corresponding period during last year?

(b) Which is the Railway zone where such robberies have been the largest in number and where have they been small in number?

(c) Have Government taken any additional precautionary measures to check these robberies after 1st July, 1952?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) There has been a slight increase in the overall number of robberies in running trains during July to September this year as compared to the corresponding period last year.

(b) The largest number is recorded on the Northern and North Eastern Railways, being 118 in each case. There have been no robberies on the Central Railway.

(c) No; but there has been a steady and continuous drive against such robberies for some time by adopting preventive measures, such as, escorting of trains by Railway Protection Police, and watching of plague spots.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether, as a result of the drive that has been instituted, any decrease in these robberies has been effected?

Mr. Speaker: It is more or less a question of opinion. The question is a

mixed one of law and order—a subject with which the State through whose territory the railway is passing is concerned. Robbery is not the production of the Railway Ministry. So, the question is rather a complicated one that way.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether any passenger had been killed as a result of these robberies during the last two months?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): One passenger has been killed.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the number of passengers wounded?

Shri L. B. Shastri: It is rather difficult.....

Mr. Speaker: I do not think we need go into that. It is not possible to give such information.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: Is it not the duty of the railway to protect the passengers, irrespective of whether the railway passes through one State or another?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is asking for an opinion and arguing.

Shri Chattopadhyay: May I know what has happened to those who successfully gagged Mr. Gadgil?—I refer to the running train, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I must "gag" the Members here and go to the next question, it appears.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know what other precautionary measures, apart from the provision of escorts, have been taken by the railway authorities?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I would like to inform the House that most of the robberies were committed in goods trains, and this is really a law and order problem, as the hon. Speaker pointed out just now. I may also inform the House that we are taking the help of the Home Ministry. In addition, we on our part are going to take definite steps in respect of our watch and ward organisation.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: Alongside the decrease in the robberies committed on the railways, may I know whether thefts have increased and the implication of railway servants in those thefts has also been on the increase?