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**LOK SABHA**

*Wednesday, 17th August, 1955*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**Running Train Dacoities**

**790. Chaudhuri Muhammed Shafiq:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of dacoities committed on running trains during the period from the 1st January to the 31st July, 1955; and

(b) the railway zone in which the largest number of dacoities was committed during the above period?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) Six.

(b) The North Eastern Railway.

**Shri Dabhi:** May I know the figures zonal-wise? Also, may I know if any persons were killed or injured during these dacoities?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** There were two dacoities on the Eastern Railway. Sir, it is a lengthy statement and if necessary I will read it out.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it not necessary?

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** What is the percentage of such cases in which the culprits have been detected and punished?

**Mr. Speaker:** I wish to clarify a position which is a constitutional one. In respect of such cases the hon. Members of the House will be pleased to see that this is not a railway responsibility—prevention of dacoities and all that. Dacoities are due to dacoits or conditions in the particular region through which the railway is passing being not what it should be and that is primarily a law and order question of the State through which the railway is passing. Therefore, details should not

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be gone into and questions should only be put to see as to how the situation is in different parts of the country and what arrangements the railway have made for giving protection to the passengers in case the dacoits come. It is not their business to organise law and order position on all the tracts through which the railway passes. That I think is the constitutional position and I should like to know whether that is the position.

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** Exactly.

**Mr. Speaker:** Therefore, it is no use going into such details.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** What about the railway police that have been employed at a huge cost by the Government?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member will realise that ordinary thefts in running trains or thefts from the yards will stand on a different footing from dacoities. It is not that dacoits usually travel in running trains and it is not the responsibility of the railway police to see that among the passengers no dacoits get in. So, we will go to the next question.

**Shri Punnoose:** What was the figure for 1954 and how does it compare with the figure for this year? Those figures, I think can be given.

**Mr. Speaker:** If he has got the figures I have no objection; but I do not propose to allow any more questions on this.

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** The number of dacoities from 1st January, 1954 to 31st July, 1954 was 8 and for the corresponding period in 1955 the figure is 6.

**Chaudhuri Muhammed Shafiq:** One question more, Sir.

इन इकैतियों को रोकने के लिये रेलवे डिपार्टमेंट ने क्या इंतजाम किया है ?

**Mr. Speaker:** I would not allow that question.