

Bridges on Ankleswar-Rajpipla Line

597. Shri Chhotubhai Patel: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the culverts and bridges on the Ankleswar-Rajpipla narrow gauge line are in bad condition and due to that there are great irregularities in arrival and departure of trains on that line; and

(b) if so, when they are likely to be repaired?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Sham Nath):

(a) and (b). The girders of the bridges on this section, which are of wrought iron, are not sufficiently strong for the impact at higher speeds. In view of the present day need for economy the regirding of such bridges of Narrow Gauge lines has been deferred, and speed restriction has therefore been imposed with effect from 1-10-1964. In order to suit the requirements of the local public and to maintain communications with Broad Gauge trains at Ankleswar, the train timings have been suitably revised.

Tampering with Railway Tracks

598. { Shri Subbaraman:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri P. Venkatasubbiah:
Shri Ravindra Varma:
Shri Hukam Chand
Kachhavaia:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was tampering with railway tracks near Madras consecutively three times within a few days from 19th October, 1964;

(b) if so, where and how;

(c) the action taken to find out the culprits; and

(d) whether the tampering was suspected as action of sabotage and

if so, the action taken so far to prevent such sabotages?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Yes.

(b) The incidents are as under:—

(i) At *Kodambakkam Railway Station in Chingleput-Madras Section* on 19-10-1964.

The heel bolts and fish plates at the heel of the switch at one point were seen removed and the fish plate and two heel bolts had been wedged in between the heel block and the tongue rail of the points which was consequently pushed inwards by 2½".

(ii) At *Sevvapet Road Station in Arkonam-Madras Section* on 20-10-64.

The track fittings of the heel block of one point were seen removed and the fish plate, fish bolts and nuts were lying nearby.

(iii) Between *Padalam and Karunguzhi stations-Villupuram-Chingleput Section* on 24-10-1964.

On the middle span of bridge No. 227 at Km. 76/6 one pair of fish plates from a joint was seen removed. One fish plate was placed on the outside of the R.S. Joist and the second one was seen placed between the running rail and the guard rail 12' away from the joint. 43 steel keys along with loose jaws were also seen removed. 3 keys with loose jaws were seen removed from right hand side rail also.

(c) These occurrences were reported to the police immediately. One police dog and two Railway Protection Force dogs were also brought to assist in the investigation.

(d) The police investigation is in progress.

Preventive measures taken are:—

(i) patrolling of lines by Gangmen during nights;