

Robbery in Howrah-Barauni Passenger Train

235. SHRI VISHWA NATH PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a daring running train robbery was committed in a first class compartment of the Howrah-Barauni passenger train between Jamalpur and Kajra stations of the Eastern Railway on the 6th January, 1968; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) Yes, but the incident occurred on 7-1-1968, between Abhaipur and Kajra stations in Jamalpur-Kiul Section of the Eastern Railway.

(b) On 7-1-1968 at about 23-30 hrs. on arrival of 32Q Up Howrah-Barauni passenger at Kiul one Shri Nath Singh, a Government official of Bihar reported to the Officer Commanding, Government Railway Police, Kiul that while he was travelling in a first class compartment of the said train two unknown persons entered the compartment when the train started from Jamalpur. On arrival at Dasa-rahpur, i.e. the next station someone shouted "Rajbansi, Rajbansi" from outside and one of those who had got in at Jamalpur opened the door when three other unknown persons came into the compartment. On this the Government official objected and the miscreants replied that they would get down at the next halt. At the next halt, i.e. a Dharara, two of them got down but three still remained in the compartment. When the train steamed off Abhaipur station they asked the Government official to surrender the cash at the point of knife, but on resistance from the official and his companion, the miscreants attacked both of them and inflicted knife injuries on their persons. Both the passengers, however, took shelter in the latrine of the compartment. When the train stopped at

Kajra, all the three miscreants decamped with stolen articles which included leather suitcase containing Rs. 330/- in cash besides others valued at Rs. 75/-. Government Railway Police, Jamalpur have registered a case under Section 394 I.P.C. which is under investigation. No arrests have been made so far. Both the injured passengers were admitted in the hospital for treatment.

Recession in Woollen Industry

236. SHRI P. N. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a press report in the Economic Times of the 19th January, 1968 that the recession in the woollen industry continues unabated and conditions this year are expected to be much worse if Government do not take adequate steps to stem the rot;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the remedial measures taken in this direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government do not fully share the pessimism about the industry and have maintained in the first six months of the current season the same level of foreign exchange allocation as in the last season, which was much higher than the previous year.

Industrial Development

237. SHRI P. N. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a press report published in the Times of India of the 20th January, 1967 stating that his Ministry has taken a serious note of the alleged attempts by manufac-