

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b) Provision of drinking water arrangements is a basic amenity at all stations except halt stations and these arrangements already exist at such stations. Tea stalls and waiting rooms are not basic amenities. There are 3604 stations where there are no tea stalls while there are 2626 stations where there are no waiting rooms. These are provided where justified as per traffic needs on a programmed basis in consultation with the Railway Users' Amenities Committees and subject to availability of funds.

Measure to Prevent Thefts and Pilferages and Composition of State Level Committees

5843. **PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures which have been initiated by Government to prevent and detect the incidence of thefts and pilferages on the Railways during the last one year; and

(b) the composition of the State Level Committees and Basic Level Committees set up for the States of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh to eliminate thefts and pilferages?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) The following are some of the important measures which have been taken by the Government during the last year to prevent thefts and pilferages on the Railways:—

(i) Joint supervision of loading and unloading operations by the staff of Commercial and Security Departments;

(ii) Surprise test checking of Loaded wagons;

(iii) Watch by plain-clothed RPF Personnel;

(iv) Armed escorting of goods trains by RPF in the affected areas;

(v) Armed guarding and patrolling of vulnerable points, yards and sections;

(vi) Patrolling of highly notorious sections by trained dogs of R.P.F.

(vii) Movement of vulnerable commodities such as Sugar, Food-grains, Oil-seeds and iron and steel in block loads escorted by armed R. P. F. personnel.

(viii) Emphasis on correct/proper packing, marking of packages and labelling of wagons to avoid package/wagons going astray or getting delayed in transit.

(ix) Detention of a number of criminals and receivers of stolen property under Special Acts.

(x) Emphasis on collection of intelligence regarding criminals/receivers of stolen property and organising raids on them.

(b) In accordance with a policy decision, two types of Joint Committees were set up on each Railway. One was at the State Level and the other at the Basic unit level. The State Level Committees were set up for the States of Punjab and Haryana and not for Himachal Pradesh. Similarly, Basic Level Committees were set up at various stations in Punjab and Haryana. These committees were not set up in Himachal Pradesh as there was no problem of thefts and pilferages in that State.

The composition of these Committees was decided to be as follows subject to the option of the Railway Administrations to make such minor changes therein as may be called for to suit local conditions:—

A State Level Committee:

(State Representatives)

(i) Home Secretary—Chairman.

(ii) Inspector General of Police—Member.

(iii) DIG/CID and Railways—Member.

(Railway Representatives)

(iv) Chief Security Officer—Member.

(v) Sr. Dy. General Manager—Member.

(vi) Chief Commercial Supdt.—Member.

(vii) (Labour Representatives)

One representative each from All India Railway Men's Federation and National Federation of Indian Railwaymen—Member.

B Basic Unit Level Committee:

(i) A Gazetted Officer having control over the unit—Chairman.

(ii) Two representatives from the official side—Member

(iii) Two representatives from the staff side one each from the recognised unions—Member.

Shortage of Wagons for Transportation of Cement in Himachal Pradesh

5844. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received from the people of Himachal Pradesh regarding shortage of wagons for carrying cement to the interior of the State in the months of January, February and March 1973; and

(b) if so, the action taken on these complaints and the causes which led to the non-availability of wagons at the appropriate time?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI): (a) A letter was received from the Government of Himachal Pradesh in March seeking assistance for stepping up of movement of cement to that State. A letter addressed to the Ministry of Industrial Development in the Government of India from the Government of Himachal Pradesh had also been received earlier in January.

(b) In the letter addressed to the Ministry of Industrial Development, Himachal Pradesh Government had indicated their monthly requirement of cement as 2700 metric tonnes. During January, February and first 20 days of March, a total of about 15,000 tonnes of cement was despatched from different cement factories for Himachal Pradesh. There is thus no shortfall in supply of wagons for meeting the requirement of cement of this State. Supply of wagons to the factories from where this State draws its requirements of cement is quite satisfactory. The transshipment performance at Kalka and Pathankot is being progressively stepped up, so as to increase the quantum of movement into Himachal Pradesh. The daily average number of Broad Gauge wagons transhipped at these two points improved from 13 in November to 19 in December, 20 in January, 16 in February and 26 in March in the first 20 days.

Irregularities in Supply of Crude Oil to Bangladesh

5845. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news report in Blitz dated the 17th February, 1973 regarding the reported irregularities in supply of Petroleum crude to Bangladesh;

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

(c) whether Government have ordered enquiry into the affairs and suspended the officials concerned with the deal in the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals and Indian Oil Corporation; and

(d) if not, why not?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Government are enquiring into the alleged irregularities by