

Railways are Back to pre-Emergency Days

1291. SHRI RAMANAND TIWARY:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been invited to the news item published in local dailies 'Railways are back to pre-emergency days'; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) Yes.

(b) The matter was investigated. Partial 3-tier sleeper coach No. 5902 having 32 berths and 40 seats which was scheduled to run by 20 Up Dehradun Express on 1-5-77 was marked sick. This was replaced by partial sleeper coach No. 1445 having 11 berths and 81 seats which was avail-

able. The failure on the part of the staff to indicate this change in the chart caused confusion and inconvenience to the passengers and has been taken up. Railways have instructions to replace sick coaches by the same type coach as far as possible.

Regarding unauthorised occupation of berths/seats in trains in yards by anti-social elements, checks have been intensified with the help of Vigilance Department, Anti-fraud squads, R.P.F. and G.R.P., to eradicate malpractices.

Scheme of Gauhati Refinery to reduce number of Workers

1292. SHRI RAMANAND TIWARY:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the management of Gauhati refinery has introduced a

secret scheme to reduce the number of workers and increase the number of officers;

(b) if so, whether a memorandum has been submitted to his Ministry in this regard by Indian Oil Corporation Mazdoor Unit; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) to (c). There were 155 workmen surplus at Gauhati Refinery as on 31-3-77. There has, however, been no compulsory retrenchment of surplus workmen. This number includes 60 workers of the Security Deptt., who were rendered surplus in January, 77 as a result of induction of Central Industrial/Security Force. The Refinery Management held discussions with the recognised Union, called Gauhati Refinery Workers' Union and reached a settlement to retrench the surplus security personnel on payment of generous retrenchment compensation. Representations against this settlement were received from the non-recognised Union, called the Indian Oil Corporation Mazdoor Union, Gauhati.

The Ministry of Labour have, however, disapproved the above settlement and have advised the Indian Oil Corpn. to reach individual agreements with the workers concerned in terms of the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1976. In the meantime, after obtaining the approval of the concerned authorities 3 security personnel who volunteered for retrenchment on payment of generous compensation have been retrenched on 15th June, 1977.