

issued any circular that they should not touch at Bhavnagar.

(e) The Port of Bhavnagar is functioning.

**Talks between Indian and USSR Officials in Commercial, Industrial and Scientific Fields**

3710. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal for cooperation with USSR in commercial, industrial, scientific and technological fields for a five year term is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, details therefor;

(c) whether talks between the officials of the two Governments were held recently; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) No. Sir. Apart from the Long-Term Programme of Economic Trade, Scientific and Technical Co-operation between India and the USSR which was signed on March 14 1979, no other proposal for Co-operation in commercial, industrial, scientific and technological fields with USSR for a five year term is under the consideration of the Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Whitewashing Contract in Katihar Railway Colony**

3711. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are New Colony and Driver Tola colony in Katihar on N. F. Railway;

(b) if so, whether repairing and whitewashing of those colonies have been done during the last 20 years;

(c) if so, where and if not, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether the repairing and whitewashing work is done under the contract system;

(e) whether the contracts are given at Katihar to the same contractor every time;

(f) whether the contractor who executed agreement is untraceable since last one year; and

(g) if so, what steps have been taken to complete the work and apprehend the contractor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) & (b). Yes.

(c) Repairs and whitewashing of the quarters are done on a continuing basis as per need and schedule laid down for the purpose.

(d) Yes.

(e) No.

(f) Yes.

(g) Contractor is untraceable. Several letters sent to him by Post have been received back undelivered. Damages will be recovered from him as per terms and conditions of the contract for failure to take up the works. The works will be taken up and completed through another agency (contractor and/or departmentally) after the monsoons.

**Murder of A.S.M. on Duty at Sijua**

3712. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the brutal murder of the A.S.M. on duty at Sijua, Eastern Railway in Dhanbad District on the 21st April, 1980;

(b) the reasons for not ordering CBI enquiry for such planned murder of the Railway official on duty when the Government Railway Police has failed to

trace out the murderers demoralising the whole railway staff; and

(c) the action taken by Government to ensure security of life of the staff at the road side station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). According to information collected from State Police authorities on 21-4-80, at about 21.30 hrs. when Assistant Station Master, Shri A. K. Bera of Sijua (Dhanbad Division) was counting station earnings in his office alone, three miscreants appeared there and charged bomb on him. He was seriously injured. Station Porter on duty hearing the sound of explosion arrived there and informed the Station Master, Sijua. On receipt of information. Officer-in-charge Government Railway Police Station Dhanbad, Officer-in-charge, Local Police, Assistant Divisional Medical Officer, Katras and other railway officers reached there. The Medical Officer examined the Assistant Station Master and declared him dead. Railway Protection Force Dog was requisitioned and put on the job of tracking. Government Railway Police, Dhanbad has also registered case No. 5 dated 22-4-80 u/s 302/394 I, P. C. and 3/4 Explosive Act and is vigorously pursuing investigation and making efforts to find out clues in this case. According to the State Police authorities they are quite competent to investigate this case, and there is no need to hand over this case to the C.B.I.

As a preventive measure, the Government Railway Police are patrolling the area. Patrolling is also being done by local Police in the vicinity of Railway Stations in the coal field area of Dhanbad and Jharia. Besides, the Government Railway Police and Civil Police have been alerted to be on the look out for criminals and prevent such occurrences.

### **Assault on A.S.M. on Duty at Ferozepur**

3713. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details about the brutal assault on the Assistant Station Master on duty at Ferozepur, Northern Railway on the 27th February, 1980, resulting in suspension of train movements in Ferozepur and Delhi Division by the aggrieved railwaymen; and

(b) the action taken by the Government against the assailants?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) A Divisional PNM meeting was fixed with Uttariya Railway Mazdoor Union at Ferozepur on 27th and 28th Feb. 1980. A coach was allotted to the Union representatives for their stay on these two days. However, when they approached the ASM on 27-2-80 to allot them the coach there was an altercation between the two parties. The Union representatives complained of rude behaviour and use of foul language by the ASM while the ASM complained of having been manhandled by the Union workers. As a result of this altercation the Shunting and Cabin staff started their agitation at about 14.30 hours on 28-2-80 in Ferozepur which later on spread to other places on the division like Amritsar and Ludhiana. After negotiations, however, the normal working was restored at 20.40 hours on 28-2-80.

An inquiry was held into the incident and chargesheets for major penalty have been issued to the employees who were found guilty by the Fact Finding Enquiry Committee. The principal of 'no work no pay' has been applied in respect of the employees who participated in unauthorised stoppage of work.