

These Committees are consultative in character and are constituted with a view to securing better representation of railway users and affording more frequent opportunities for consultation between Railway Administration and users on matters relating to the services provided by railways.

Protection to Women Beedi Workers

4139. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU :
SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL :
SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN :
SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Beedi and Cigar Workers' Act and the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act mainly aimed at protecting women workers in the tobacco-processing sector have failed to protect them;

(b) if so, the main reasons thereof ;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to ensure that women beedi workers fully benefit from the welfare legislation; and

(d) whether Government have drawn attention of the various State Governments concerned to the situation and have suggested any line of action ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY) : (a) The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 and the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976 are meant for all workers (man and women) in the Beedi and Cigar Establishments. It cannot be said that these legislations have failed to achieve their objective.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) The enforcement of the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 is with the State Governments. Any violations of the provisions of the Act are brought to the notice of the State Governments concerned.

Violence in Howrah-Kharagpur Section

4140. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that South Eastern Railway employees are highly agitated over the continuing violence in the Howrah-Kharagpur section; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to protect the railway employees and railway property ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b). Railway-men's Unions of South Eastern and Eastern Railways have expressed their resentment over the incidents of manhandling and assault of 'on duty railwaymen' by the commuters of Howrah—Kharagpur section during July, 1988 due to late running of trains.

The State Police authorities, who are responsible for the maintenance of law and order on the Railways, have taken suitable measures to control the situation.

Introduction of New Superfast Train

4141. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently introduced some new superfast trains in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any prescribed speed for declaring a train as 'Superfast Train'; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether the speed of newly introduced trains is at par with the prescribed speed ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(1) 965/966 Bombay-Varanasi Express.