

Invention of equipment to prevent collisions of Trains

391. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any inventors have demonstrated to the Railway Board equipment that could prevent head-on collisions of trains;

(b) if so, whether the Railway Board has evaluated these inventions; and

(c) if so, whether any such invention is to be used as a regular equipment in the trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) to (c). Recently, a person has claimed to have developed a gadget which could stop a train and thus avert collisions. He gave a demonstration of his model on 12th & 15th September, 1977 at Research Designs & Standards Organisation, Lucknow. To enable a complete assessment of the model being made, he was requested to give a complete circuit diagram with all technical data. This information has not yet been furnished, pending which the model still remains to be completely evaluated.

Prevention of pilferages from Railway Godowns

392. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR DHARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any set-up in the railway administration to make on the spot checks and inspections for preventing pilferages from Railway godowns, platforms, wagons by or through the connivance of Railway staff;

(b) if such a body exists, whether publicmen are associated with it;

(c) if not, whether such a body is likely to be formed; and

(d) what are the losses to the Government and the public through pilferages in the year 1976-77 and the current financial year upto August last?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Railway Protection Force staff are posted at all major goods sheds, parcel platforms and yards to protect all goods entrusted to the railways for carriage. It is also their duty to prevent pilferage of goods by Railway staff or with their connivance. Their duties are regularly checked by supervisory officials. Senior officers including those of the Railway Protection Force conduct surprise checks and periodical inspections. The Vigilance Department of the Railways also probes into cases of involvement of staff which come to their notice.

(b) and (c). At present there is no proposal to set up such a body on the Railways. However, Joint Committees at basic level consisting of two representatives from official side and two representatives one each from the recognised labour unions, are functioning at important goods depots, transshipment points, loco sheds and stores depot etc., to reduce the incidence of thefts and pilferage on the Railways. These Committees meet periodically to combat the evil of thefts and pilferages and to suggest preventive measures.

(d) Claims for compensation paid by the Railways on account of pilferage of booked consignments during 1976-77 and 1977-78 (April '77 to August '77) are given below:-

Year	Amount of compensation paid on account of pilferage
(Rs. in Lakhs)	
1976-77	545.97
1977-78 (April '77 to August '77)	240.25