

other parts of the country including Meerut in U.P.; and

(b) what are the names of other places in the country where benches of high court will be set up?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) and (b). No such decision has been taken.

Students Violence at Unnao Railway Station

2826. SHRI PRASANNBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several people including a superintendent of Government Railway police sustained injuries when a mob of students pelted stones at the GRP post at Unnao railway station about 60 km. from Lucknow on 16th February, 1978;

(b) if so, the details of the same and

(c) what were the reasons and the action taken against the persons held responsible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Yes, 6 persons including the Superintendent of Police (Railways) Lucknow, were injured.

(b) on 16-2-1978, a Magistrate, SP (Railways) Lucknow. DSP Unnao, Police and Railway Protection Force personnel and TTEs checked raebareli-Kanpur passenger train at Achalganj Railway Station and apprehended 27 persons including 5 students and 2 teachers travelling without tickets. When the officials along with the arrested persons left Achalganj Railway Station in the bus and jeep, students of the Achalganj School hurled stones at the bus and the jeep, resulting in minor injuries to the Superintendent Police (Railways) Dy.S.P., two Constables and

two others. The party alongwith arrested persons reached Government Railway police Post Unnao. The news of arrest of students and teachers spread in the educational institutions at Unnao. A large number of students and local leaders gheraoed the Unnao Railway Station and the GRP Post and demanded release of the arrested persons, particularly the students and the teachers. The unruly crowd pelted stones and disconnected hose pipes of the passenger trains standing at Unnao Railway Station. Later the students and the teachers were let off on furnishing personal bonds. The remaining arrested persons were also released after realising the railway dues.

(c) The action of the Ticket Checking Staff, Police and Magistrate in detaining students and teachers for travelling without tickets, apparently provoked the students and others to indulge in violence. The GRP Unnao has registered a case u/ss. 147 353. 336 & 427 IPC on 16-2-1978, which is under investigation.

Threat to Wreck Trains

2827. SHRI PRASANNBHAI MEHTA:

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH:

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:

SHRI SHYAM SUNDER GUPTA:

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

• SHRI MAHI LAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the General Manager, Northern Railway has received threatening letters from unknown persons for disruption of railway traffic throughout the Northern region; and

(b) if so, steps that are proposed to be taken to guard all railway lines to prevent disruption of the railway service not only in the Northern Region but throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Yes.

(b) The preventive measures taken are:—

1. Track patrolling by Railway Protection force (11,000) and gangmen (14,000) has been introduced in sensitive sections throughout the country;

2. Besides patrolling of the track in vulnerable sections by Railway Protection Force and gangmen, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana have mobilised State Police personnel/Home Guard Village Chowkidars for patrolling the track in sensitive areas;

3. State Governments of Punjab and Haryana have invoked the provisions of Village and Small Town Patrol Act, 1918 thereby asking villagers to keep a watch on the track;

4. Important cases of sabotage are being investigated by special squads of the CID of the concerned States;

5. The State Governments have also geared up the intelligence machinery. Close liaison is maintained with all investigating and intelligence agencies as well as the Special Cell in the Intelligence Bureau (Ministry of Home Affairs). At all levels, available information is exchanged frequently so that coordinated efforts are made to prevent and detect sabotage cases.

Oil in Assam-Arakan Basin

2828. SHRI PRASANNBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after Bombay High, the Assam-Arakan

basin lying in the North East is perhaps India's best hope in meeting petroleum deficit;

(b) if so, how far this is true and steps that are being taken in the matter;

(c) whether the ageing western Gujarat oilfields have started giving diminishing yield;

(d) whether the areas of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh can, at best maintain a static production for the next few years; and

(e) if so, whether alternative sites have also been spotted for all production in view of the short-comings that India will be facing due to the above diminishing results?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and (b). A prognostic assessment of the petroleum reserves of the different basins of the country by a joint Indo-Soviet Team has indicated that the Assam-Arakan basin has good prospects. Considerable oil and gas reserves have already been established in the Upper Assam Valley. Besides, development of these, the exploration in the area is being intensified to discover additional reserves.

(c) The fields are producing as planned. However, lower production is being planned to prolong the steady rate of production.

(b) The presently proven fields are in Assam. Exploratory drilling in Arunachal Pradesh is in progress by Oil India Limited. On the basis of the present recoverable reserves, it is estimated that the production at the present rate can be maintained for another 15—20 years.

(e) Yes, Sir In addition to conducting exploration in the presently known oil/gas bearing areas of India, the ONGC is conducting exploratory drilling in other sedimentary basins on land e.g., Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal, as well as in the continental shelf.