

3-tier sleeper coach and looted properties of passengers including cash of Rs. 1600/-.

(2) On 9-6-1978 at about 03.30 hrs. some criminals boarded 3-tier second class coach of Jayanti Janta Express and robbed 3 passengers near Sanchi on the Bhopal-Bina section of the Central Railway in Madhya Pradesh.

(3) On 12-6-1978, 5 criminals entered 3-tier coach of 16 Up G. T. Express and robbed the passengers between Mohasa and Bina on Jhansi-Bina section of Central Railway in Madhya Pradesh.

(c) Prompt investigation by the Government Railway Police, Madhya Pradesh led to the arrest of 6 criminals involved in these cases. Stolen properties worth Rs. 50,000/- have been recovered.

Being concerned with the increase in heinous crimes affecting the travelling public the Minister of Railways had earlier drawn the attention of the Chief Ministers of West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh and the response was encouraging. On 16-6-1978 a high level meeting between the officers of the Ministries of Railways and Home Affairs was held and it was decided (1) the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and parts of Maharashtra will launch vigorous drive against such crime by increasing the strength of the armed escorts; (2) to ensure prompt communication to the armed police escort whenever alarm chain is pulled; (3) to accommodate the armed police escorts in the centre of the train; (4) to provide the police escorts with powerful torches/very light pistols and flares. Armed RPF escorts are being provided on selected trains running in vulnerable sections to protect railway property. This would also help to instil confidence amongst the travelling public and also deter criminals from operating on the trains.

Compensation due to Loss, Damage, etc. in Central Railway

343. SHRI BHAUSAHEB THORAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of compensation paid to the customers due to loss, damage, etc. of goods during the last three years in Central Railway;

(b) what are causes of such losses; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to stop recurrence of such losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Total amount of compensation claims paid due to loss, damage etc. of goods during the last three years beginning 1975-76, by the Central Railway was Rs. 1.49 crores, 1.24 crores and 1.33 crores respectively.

(b) The main causes of such claims are theft, pilferage, breakage, damage by wet, by delay in transit or by accidents, exchange of consignments, frauds etc.

(c) The following steps are taken by the Government to stop recurrence of such losses:—

(i) Escorting of goods trains carrying iron and steel, food-grains, sugar, oilseeds etc. by Railway Protection Force armed personnel in vulnerable sections;

(ii) Patrolling by armed Railway Protection Force Personnel in vulnerable yards;

(iii) Collection of crime intelligence and conducting of surprise raids by the staff of the Crime Intelligence of the Railways as well as Central Crime Bureau, Railway Board, with a view to tracking down criminals and receivers of stolen goods;

(iv) Guiding and educating the staff to make them more and more conscious of the need to prevent loss of and damage to consignments;

(v) Insistence on provision of dunnage to protect flap door pilferage in case of wagon load consignments of sugar, grains, pulses, oil-seeds, etc.;

(vi) Proper marking, addressing and labelling to prevent the consignment from going astray;

(vii) Proper maintenance of wagons so that incidence of sickness of wagons resulting in detention and transshipment is minimised, and also damage by wet and pilferage through doors and body-holes is reduced;

(viii) Use of nuts and bolts for rivetting wagons loaded with valuable goods;

(ix) Patching of panel-cuts of wagons in sick-lines yards and goods sheds to reduce the circulation of defective wagons;

(x) Special precautions during monsoon season to prevent damage by wet;

(xi) Proper supervision and careful tallying of packages during loading and unloading operations;

(xii) Intensified supervision at break-of-gauge transshipment points and repacking points; and

(xiii) Prompt fixation of staff responsibility.

Casual Labour in Central Railway

344. SHRI BHAUSAHEB THORAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of casual labour working at present in each division in Central Railway and since when;

(b) when these casual labourers will be taken up on regular basis; and

(c) what is the percentage of scheduled caste/Scheduled Tribe labour in it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS: (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) The total number of casual labour as on 31-3-1978 working on different divisions of Central Railway is as follows:

Division	Number
Bombay	8,479
Bhusaval	6,176
Jhansi	9,245
Jabalpur	5,109
Nagpur	2,319
Sholapur	1,663

Of these, 2 have put in over 10 years, 568 over 5 years, 2,855 over 3 years, 1,597 over 4 months and 27,969 less than 4 months.

(b) These casual labourers will be considered for absorption on regular basis on being declared suitable by the Screening Committee, as and when vacancies occur.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Violence at Victoria Terminus Station over Defective rakes of Suburban Trains

345. SHRI YAGYA DATT SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Police used tear gas and lathi-charge to control violent commuters at Victoria Terminus station during the last week of May,