

Shri Alagesan: I have given the number of thefts on the North Eastern Railway. It is 1701. I do not have the comparative figures for the earlier years.

Shri M. D. Joshi: Apart from the steps taken by the Railway Ministry may I know what steps have been taken by the Home Ministry to avert these thefts?

Shri Alagesan: The Home Ministry convened a meeting at which various State Governments like West Bengal, Bihar etc. were represented and they decided upon certain measures. Those are being pursued with vigour.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that a large number of children are allowed to travel on the foot-boards of the trains, and later on these urchins steal away property belonging to the passengers, and if so, what steps do Government propose to take to stop this practice?

Shri Alagesan: It has been answered previously in this House. They are dealt with under the law.

Shri Jaipal Singh: In which State is there the biggest thieving?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it necessary that we should say that the State is responsible for the thieving?

Shri Jaipal Singh: I want to know which area—it may be one State or two States where the largest number of thefts may have been reported.

Shri Alagesan: I have given the figures railway-wise. These railways pass through different States, so that it is not possible to give the figures States-wise.

Lala Achint Ram: Was any injury caused to the person of any passengers in the course of these thefts?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If injury is caused it becomes robbery, not mere theft.

Shrimati Sushama Sen: May I know, Sir, if these thefts take place more in ladies compartments than in other compartments? May I also know what steps are Government taking to ensure the safety of ladies travelling?

Shri Alagesan: The safety devices provided are more in the ladies' compartments and better care is taken of these compartments.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know, Sir, whether the properties recovered are restored to the parties, or taken by the Government?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member, I know, is a lawyer. It is never the property of Government. It is returned to the party unless the party himself is a thief.

Shri B. S. Murthy: According to the figures given by the hon. Minister about 4,595 thefts were reported from the Eastern Railways—which is more than half the total number of thefts. May I know whether there is any special reason for the increase in the number of thefts in that area—may I know whether it is due to railway employees being involved in the cases?

Shri Alagesan: I cannot cite any special reason, Sir.

Shri K. K. Basu: May we know whether the incidence of these thefts has increased after the regrouping of the railways?

Shri Alagesan: There is no warrant for such presumption.

Shri Boovaraghasamy: May I know whether the number of thefts increased or decreased when it is compared to the previous year?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He said he has not got that information.

Shri Kelappan: Is the majority of these thefts committed by ostensible beggars?

Shri Alagesan: We have no such information.

Shri Sanganna: May I know whether the person or persons who are helpful in the detection of these cases rewarded?

Shri Alagesan: Unless the reward was a prior condition I don't think they are rewarded.

RAILWAY AUDIT REPORT, 1951

*1093. **Shri Dabhi:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Railway Audit Report, 1951, gives several instances of losses, nugatory expenditure, financial irregularities, etc.?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, how much total monetary loss has thereby been incurred by Government?

(c) What steps have Government taken against those who are responsible for these losses etc.?

(d) What steps have Government taken to see that such losses etc. do not occur in future?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) 46.61 lakhs as reported by Audit; out of this 34 lakhs are accounted for by the sudden abandonment of the Kanchrapara Project as a result of partition.

(c) Disciplinary action has been taken wherever possible against the officials responsible for the loss, depending upon the degree of responsibility attaching to the individual. Following are the instances of punishment meted out to the various individuals responsible for the cases reported in the Audit Report, 1951.

(1) Expression of displeasure and warnings to individuals against repetition of such failures.

(2) Stoppage of increments and forfeiture of Government contributions to State Railway Provident Fund.

(3) Reversion to a lower post and transfer to other stations, and placing of a bar on promotion.

(4) Dismissal from service.

Apart from the actions listed above, as a result of legal action some persons were also convicted and sentenced to undergo imprisonments in addition to payments of fines.

(d) All important cases of losses of over 1,000 in monetary value or cases revealing serious defects in procedure or unusual features are reported to the Board who examine them from all points of view, to see whether any lacuna exists in the existing procedure, and immediate steps are taken to rectify the same.

Shri Dabhi: May we know the names and/or designations of the persons against whom this action has been taken?

Shri Alagesan: I do not have the names of persons.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know, Sir, whether the punishment meted out in such cases is inversely proportional to the rank of the officer?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He need not answer that question, I won't allow sarcasm to be indulged in in this House.

Shri V. P. Nayar: It is not indulging in sarcasm, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Why should it be inversely proportionate? If any particular cases are referred to, it is all right. The hon. Member speaks as

though some general instructions are issued.....

Shri V. P. Nayar: That is what I wanted to know. Unfortunately, Sir, I cannot refer to the cases, because I came to know of them in the Committees.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am not bothered about it; such sarcasm should not be indulged in.

Shri V. P. Nayar: It was not sarcasm at all.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It comes to this—the richer the man the lower the punishment. I am really surprised.

छत्तीसगढ़ में धान की फसल (कीड़ा)

*१०९४. श्री जांगड़े: क्या साहब सभा कृषी मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को विदित है कि एक प्रकार का कीड़ा छत्तीसगढ़ में धान की बालों को भारी हानि पहुंचा रहा है;

(ख) क्या केन्द्र सरकार का मध्य प्रदेश सरकार से इस विषय में कोई सिकायत प्राप्त हुई है; तथा

(ग) क्या इस कीड़े को मारने के लिये सरकार ने कीटनाशक द्रव्यों के संभरण और वितरण के लिय कुछ प्रयत्न किया है ?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes; the worm involved is the paddy bug, popularly known as the *gundhi*.

(b) Information about the infestation was received from the Madhya Pradesh Government during the last week of September.

(c) On receipt of information the Government of India supplied two power dusters, 60 hand dusters and ten cwts. of insecticides to Madhya