

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR):

(a) No, Sir. The beneficiaries attached with the C.G.H.S. Dispensary, Nanakpura are provided Emergency Services during Night time and beyond normal working hours from C.G.H.S. Dispensary, Moti Bagh-1, which is situated at a distance of about one and half kilometres from the C.G.H.S. Dispensary, Nanakpura.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) & (d). The representations have been considered but at present there is no proposal to convert it into a functioning unit as facilities are available at a nearby dispensary.

Plantation Labour (Amendment) Bill, 1973

383 SHRI ANANDA PATHAK:
Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what steps the Union Labour Ministry suggest to improve the conditions of plantation workers; and

(b) what is the fate of the Plantation Labour (Amendment) Bill introduced in Rajya Sabha in 1973?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM & CIVIL AVIATION & LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) The Plantations Labour Act, 1951 contains necessary provisions for improving and safeguarding conditions of plantation workers.

(b) The recommendations of the Joint Committee of Parliament on the Plantations Labour (Amendment) Bill 1973 are under consideration of Government.

Improvement of Railways

304 SHRI CHANDRABHAN
ATHARE PATIL:

SHRI FAROOQ ABDULLAH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the railways so far as their punctual running and cleanliness of the railway track and railway Stations are concerned; and

(b) what deterrent measures are proposed to be taken to liquidate the corrupt and unscrupulous anti-social elements prevailing in the reservation of Railway berths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF):

(a) Railways have been asked to pay special attention to the punctual running of trains and arrange for day-to-day monitoring of important Mail and Express trains not only at the field level but also at the Zonal Head Quarters level. Avoidable detentions are taken up immediately and remedial/punitive action taken to improve the running of trains. Railways have also been instructed that slackness of staff in this matter should be dealt with firmly and promptly. Liaison is also being maintained with the concerned State Governments to check the incidence of alarm chain pulling, disconnection of hose-pipes and other miscreant activities.

Adequate number of sanitary staff are deputed to ensure proper standard of cleanliness in station premises and on railway platforms. In addition, supervisory staff have standing instructions to carry out frequent checks and to take prompt action in the event of any lapses. A special drive has been instituted from 5-2-1980 to ensure proper cleanliness of railway stations.

(b) Checks have been intensified with the help of anti-fraud squads, Vigilance Organisations, Government Railway Police and Railway Protection Force to detect anti-social elements indulging in malpractices regarding reservations. Railways have been alerted to keep a constant vigil on the corrupt and irregular activities of anti-social elements and take stern action and effective measures to contain their activities. It is proposed

to amend the Indian Railways Act suitably to make the procurement and transfer of reserved tickets a cognizable offence.

Steps have recently been taken to render better and more satisfactory service to the travelling public in the matter of reservations. Some of these steps are:—

- (i) Additional reservation counters have been set up at important railway stations:
- (ii) Separate refund counters, in order to relieve congestion at booking windows, have been opened;
- (iii) Firm reservations over and above the normal quota of berths against the vacancies which arise due to normal cancellations, are also now being made;
- (iv) Reservation of seats by day-time trains is now being made without the passenger filing up detailed requisition forms.

Damage caused to Railway property

335. SHRI CHANDRABHAN
ATHARE PATIL:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE
PATIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the damage caused to railway property including wagons etc., as a result of the attacks by unruly mobs in each State (year-wise) during the last three years; and

(b) what security measures have been enforced to protect the railway property from such colossal damages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF)

(a) As per the statement attached.

(b) Law and Order being a State subject under the Constitution, its maintenance in railway premises during mob attacks is the responsibility of the Government Railway Police under the State Governments/State Police authorities.

The Railways on their part maintain close liaison with the State Police authorities at all levels and render necessary assistance whenever required. In case of apprehension of disturbed law and order situation, immediate liaison is established at local level for adequate protection of railway property by the State Police authorities. RPF/RPSF personnel are also deployed to guard the assets of railways, such as vital installations.