

age. The capacity of the press was utilised in clearing arrears of these important items.

(a) The said press has 2 rotary, 6 cylinder and 4 platen type printing machines and no machine remained idle for want of work.

#### Steam Locomotives in Operation

566. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many steam locomotives are in operation on the Indian Railways;

(b) whether there is a scarcity of spare parts in various steam locomotives which hamper repair of steam engines;

(c) whether production of steam engine spare parts has been stopped; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) 8,122 Steam locomotives are in service on Indian Railways.

(b) While Railways are geared to ensure adequate availability of spares to sheds for maintenance of locomotives, of late, the position has received a set back due to severe shortage of electrical power which has resulted in a reduction in the production capacity of Railways Workshops and availability of trade items from industry.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Second Bridge under Construction on Hooghly River

567. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a second bridge is under construction on Hooghly connecting Howrah and Calcutta;

(b) if so, since when the work of construction started;

(c) what were the different targets of completion of construction work; and

(d) what is the present stage of construction work and when is it expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. It is however a State project being executed by West Bengal Govt. with Central loan assistance.

(b) to (d). According to information furnished by the State Govt., the position is as under:

	Year of commencement	Completion target	Latest progress
(i) Approaches and interchange on Calcutta side.	June '72	Dec. '82	About 20 %
(ii) Approaches and interchange and Howrah side.	Sept '72	June '83	About 10 %
(iii) Main bridge	Dec. '78	Dec. '83	About 11 %

#### Strike by Doctors and Nurses of AIIMS and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital

568. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KOCHACK:

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA:

SHRI N. E. HORO:

SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:

SHRI DAYA RAM SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether Resident Doctors of All India Institute of Medical Scien-

ces and Doctors and nurses of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia hospital are on strike;

(b) if so, what are their main grievances and reasons for these strikes; and

(c) what are the set back in the arrival of an early settlement?

**THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):**

(a) to (c). The Resident Doctors of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences are on strike without proper notice from 21st April, 1980. Their main grievances and reasons for the strike are as under:—

(i) Thesis as a part of the MD/MS Course be abolished with immediate effect shrtng from the batch of candidates appearing for the Final Examination in December, 1980.

(ii) All residents should be given appropriate residential accommodation immediately on their joining the residency.

(iii) The residents should not be required to do any Laboratory investigations or go to laboratories to collect investigation reports. Appropriate arrangements be made to revise duty rosters so as to ensure that all residents get Sundays and Gazetted holidays off except the resident on duty who should get a week day off in lieu thereof. After a day and night duty of 24 hours the residents should get the next 24 hours off.

(iv) All residents should be entitled to one months earned leave/vacation, one month unpaid extraordinary leave/sick leave, in addition to the existing casual leave.

(v) (a) All pay of the Residents withheld on account of strike should be immediately released.

(b) All Junior residents should be paid non-practising allowance at par with doctors employed in the Central Health Services.

(c) Senior residents should get appropriate grade of pay as given to specialists in the Central Government Service.

(d) Pay-scales of Junior residents should be brought at par with those of Junior Medical officers in Central Government service.

(vi) Contract signed by the residents should be drastically revised so as to ensure removal of all unjust and unilateral clauses.

2. Demands of the Resident Doctors' Association have been considered by the Institute authorities and about most of the demands, the manner in which they are to be dealt with, has been agreed to between the Resident doctors and the authorities after protracted negotiations at appropriate levels. However, with regard to one of the main demands relating to abolition of thesis from the MD/MS Course the Faculty members, the Academic Committee and the Institute Body do not find adequate grounds for abolition of the thesis especially as the post-graduate students were aware of the obligation in the matter from the day they gained admission in the post-graduate courses. The Institute Body, however, agreed to remove all difficulties and bottlenecks in carrying out the research work and preparation of thesis. In this connection it may be mentioned that the AIIMS is charged with the responsibility of denicns- trating a high standard of medical education to the Medical Colleges of the country. Viewed this way, the Institute Body felt that abolition of thesis from the curriculae of MD/MS course in this premier Institution would greatly dilute the academic standards, which will not be in the interest of medical education. The above decisions of the Institute Body have already been communicated to the striking doctors in writing and they had been requested to call of the strike immediately so that their various demands could be suitably resolved as a package deal. It is most unfortunate

that the striking doctors have not responded positively to the efforts made so far.

3. In so far as Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital is concerned, only the Junior Residents remained on strike from the evening of 21st May, 1980 to 29th May, 1980. The strike was to express resentment against action taken by the authorities in connection with a quarrel between a Nurse and a Doctor of the hospital.

### Looting a Marriage Party in 281 UP Train

569. SHRI GULAM RASOOL  
KOCHAK:

SHRI M. V. CHANDRA  
SHEKHARA MURTHY.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA  
S. DEO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that marriage party was looted in a train dacoity in 281 UP Passenger near Manjhi Railway Station at Bhilai on the 4th May, 1980;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the train dacoities have been on the increase for the last two years;

(d) if so, whether Railway Protection Force has not been effective to tackle this problem;

(e) how many train robberies have taken place during the last six months; and

(f) the steps being taken to check them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI  
C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and  
(b). On 30-4-1980 (and not on 4.5.80)  
a marriage party boarded, a second

class compartment of 281 UP Passenger train at Manjhi Railway Station situated in Chapra-Ballia Section of the North Eastern Railway. While the train was running between Manjhi and Manjhi bridge, 8 to 10 miscreants looted the belongings, ornaments and wrist watches not only of the marriage party but also of the members of a Ram Lila party, valued at about Rs. 10,000/-. One of the passengers sustained knife injury. The miscreants escaped by jumping from the running train leaving behind property worth Rs. 6,000/- No arrest has been reported so far. Government Railway Police Station, Chapra has registered case No. 4 dated 13-5-80 under section 295|397 I.P.C. and investigations are in progress.

(c) There is decreasing trend in dacoities and robberies in 1980 as compared to previous years.

(d) Policing including railway Policing being a State subject under the Constitution, the Government Railway Police under the State Government is responsible for maintaining law and order in railway premises as well as for prevention and detection of crimes in running trains and in railway premises. Railway Protection Force is only responsible for protection of Railway Property.

(e) During the last six months i.e. December 1979 to May 1980, 101 cases of robberies/dacoities in trains were reported on all Indian Railways.

(f) All important and vulnerable passenger trains are provided with Police escorts for prevention and detection of such crimes in trains. Railways maintain close liaison with the State Police authorities at all levels and render necessary assistance when even required. About 2,000 R. P. F. personnel have been deployed to assist the G.R.P. in escorting passenger trains to deter criminals and instil confidence among the travelling public. TTEs/Attendants/Conductors have been instructed to remain vigilant to prevent entry of unauthorised persons in train coaches.