

News-item captioned "Touting Bank Loans"

7369. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Touting Bank Loans" appearing under the column headed "From the Files" in the Calcutta 'Business Standard' dated the 12th March, 1983 ;

(b) if so, his reaction thereto ; and

(c) what steps he has taken or proposes to take to prevent such misuse of Government's programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Although officially no such complaint has been received, we have requested Government of Gujarat to look into the matter.

Increasing Incidence of Crimes on Railways

7370. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an increasing incidence of crime on railways ;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to provide better security to passengers ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) to (c) No data in regard to crime on railways as a whole is compiled on

all India basis as law and order including crime is a State subject. However, available information in regard to dacoities and robberies in running trains for the years 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983 is as under :—

	1980	1981	1982	1983
Dacoities :	99	131	115	109
Robberies :	252	239	276	219

2. The Railways are taking following measures to prevent incidents of crimes on the Railways :—

(1) The drivers of the trains have been directed to sound the distress whistle if the train is brought to a sudden unscheduled halt so that the escort party is put on the alert.

(2) Coach attendants have been instructed to remain vigilant and prevent entry of unauthorised passengers into reserved compartments.

(3) The Research, Design and Standards organisation of the Railways has been advised to suggest improvement in the locking arrangements of sliding doors of compartments improvement in the vestibules to prevent unauthorised entry and provision of better lighting facilities in and outside the compartments.

Government Railway Police, who are responsible for safety and security of passengers travelling in trains and their belonging, are making all efforts to control crime on the Railways by providing escorts on trains surveillance over criminals, arresting and prosecuting them in specific cases. Railway Protection Force is assisting the Government Railway Police in this regard.