

(a) whether about 15 gangsters attacked the New Delhi bound 4-down Assam Mail on the 17th October, 1972 and robbed passengers of Rs. 25,000;

(b) if so, whether any arrests have been made; and

(c) the action taken to prevent the recurrence?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) Yes. Property worth Rs. 40,000 was robbed.

(b) Two persons have been arrested so far.

(c) Escorting of passenger trains by Armed police personnel and plain clothes men has been further intensified in this section.

Denial of Daily Allowance to Relieving Staff of Metre Gauge Suburban Section, Madras Division

2188. SHRI THA KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the name of economy, the employees in the lower rung particularly relieving Staff are denied Daily Allowances on the Metre Gauge Suburban Section of the Madras Division, whereas the highly paid officials continue to pocket huge sums every month; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that the low paid staff are not denied their dues?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Inadequate Drainage System on Main Line Platforms at Madras Egmore

2189. SHRI THA KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drainage system on main line platforms at Madras Egmore is unsatisfactory and results in stagnation of filth and waste and nauseating odour causing inconvenience to passengers as well as workmen performing train attendance work day and night, and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T. A. PAI.): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Bifurcation of Olavakkot Division (Southern Railway)

2190. SHRI THA KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for bifurcation of Olavakkot Division on the Southern Railway was brought to the notice of the Railway Administration;

(b) whether steps were taken for the formation of new Division with Headquarters at Salem some years ago and the land for construction of Headquarters Offices was also acquired; and

(c) if so, the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T. A. PAI). (a) Yes.

(b) No. It may however be stated that Divisions are created on the basis of administrative and operational requirements of the Railways consistent with economy in expenditure. New divisions are set up only when workload on the existing divisions becomes too heavy for efficient management. Olavakkot Division is a light division on the Southern Railway and its present workload does not warrant bifurcation.

(c) Does not arise.