

Committee to Study Problems of R.P.F. and its composition

1253. SHRI P. M. MEHTA:
SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has decided to set up a committee for studying the problems of the Railway Protection Force;

(b) if so, who are the members of this Committee; and

(c) when the Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a). Yes. The Committee set up by the Government will evaluate and implement the various decisions taken by the Railway Board in connection with the re-organisation of the R.P.F. and other allied matters connected with the administration of the force.

(b) (i) Addl. Member Commercial, Railway Board.

(ii) Deputy Inspector General Railway Protection Special Force, Railway Board.

(iii) Chief Commercial Superintendent and Chief Security Officer of each Zonal Railway in respect of the matters pertaining to each Zonal Railway.

(c) Within six months from the date it starts functioning.

Lack of wagons hits bentonite movement

1254. SHRI P. M. MEHTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the Press report in the 'Times of India' (Ahmedabad Edition) dated 16th June, 1973 under the heading "lack of wagons hits bentonite movement", and if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(b) whether the Railways moved 73 wagons from Bhuj in May, 1972 and only seven wagons during May, 1973; and

(c) if so, what steps Government will take to improve the wagon supply so that the bentonite is saved and dispatched to other place in time?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) to (c). Yes. Bentonite consigned to Steel Plants, Defence installations, Oil and Natural Gas Commission and other Public Sector Undertakings moves in a higher priority and there is generally no difficulty in arranging expeditious clearance under normal working conditions. However, bentonite traffic offered on private account qualifies for movement in the lowest priority, namely item 'E'. There is heavy movement of higher priority traffic like foodgrains, fertilisers and salt from this area, for which wagons have to be supplied on a preferential basis. Besides, clearance of all goods traffic including bentonite traffic was affected in recent months by the agitation of the station and loco staff on the Western Railway.

In spite of the limitations referred to above, during the months of May and June, 1973, 58 metre gauge and 15 broad gauge wagons were loaded with bentonite from stations in Kutch area, including Bhuj and Gandhidham. The loading has been stepped up in the current month and upto 20th July, 1973, 58 metre gauge and 27 broad gauge wagons have been loaded with bentonite from Kutch area. The outstanding demands are mostly on private account.

Increase in Robbery in Trains

1255. SHRI P. M. MEHTA:
SHRI P. A. SAMINATHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of robbery have been again on the increase in the Railways;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have not been able to check this increasing incidence of robbery in the trains; and

(c) what steps are being taken to check the cases of robbery in the trains and ensure safety of passengers?