

(c) what action Government have taken in this regard?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI):** (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**Consignment Booked Underweight from Delhi Station to Howrah by Parcel Staff, Delhi Station**

**6117. SHRI MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6782 dated the 10th April, 1973 regarding investigation into consignments booked underweight from Delhi station to Howrah by Parcel Staff, Delhi station and state;

(a) whether the Parcel Clerks concerned have been charge-sheeted and transferred from Delhi Main Station; and

(b) if so, whether the Administration also propose to probe through the Vigilance Department about the consignments of fresh vegetables booked underweight from Delhi to Howrah by the Parcel Staff during the years 1970 and 1971 to assess as to what extent the leakage of Railway revenue is involved?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI):** (a) Yes. All the eight Parcel Clerks have been charge-sheeted and orders of their transfer have been issued. Six of them have already carried out their transfers.

(b) The desirability of ordering such a probe is under consideration.

**Disturbed Industrial Relations in Railways**

**6118. SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA:**

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state what flexible and unconventional approach he intends to adopt in order to cope with the persistent disturbed industrial relations in the Railways causing serious dislocation of rail movement during the last one Year?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI):** The legitimate demands of all categories of staff are considered and solved through the various tiers of the collective bargaining machinery—the Permanent Negotiating Machinery and the Joint Consultative Machinery—which have been functioning constitutionally and purposefully over a long period of time. Further, representations coming from any source, including unrecognised Unions, are given due consideration and appropriate action is taken in each case. When there is so much of scope for ventilating the grievances and getting them redressed, there should really be no room for sudden out-bursts of illegal strikes or agitations like "Work to-Rule", "Work-to-Safety" etc.

2 There is no doubt that labour relations on Indian Railways is a subject that requires persistent attention and in this context there have been several special meetings with labour representatives under the aegis of the recognised Federations which have been useful. Not only so, an unconventional step was taken in inviting a conference on labour relations on 4th February, 1974 and it was attended by some Members of Parliament interested in labour problems, some leaders of central trade unions and representatives of two recognised Federations. The policy of one union

in one industry has been accepted in principle in this Conference.

3. Under the order issued on 25-11-1973 in exercise of Defence of India Rules, 1971, strike is prohibited in Railways services for a period of six months with effect from 26-11-1973. Violation of these orders is punishable as per provisions of the rules.

4. Railway employees who resort to illegal strikes in violation of the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 are liable for punishment.

5. It has been decided to enforce the principle of 'No work—No Pay' to discourage the elements instigating strikes and agitations.

6. All acts of indiscipline will be dealt with firmly.

7 The Grievances Redressal Machinery and Implementation Cell is being suitably strengthened.

8 It has also been decided to recognise the services of loyal workers by grant of extensions, rewards, advance increments for outstanding service. Favourable consideration with in administrative rules will also be given for appointment of children and dependents of loyal workers

#### Mixing Methanol with Petrol for Fuel Economy

6119. SHRI P. GANGADEB: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Methanol can be produced from coal, wood and domestic refuse;

(b) if so, whether Government have explored a method of stretching petrol by adding Methanol to it; and

(c) whether tests have shown that fuel economy can be achieved by it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Because of the short supply and high prices of Methanol, no attempts have been made so far to blend methanol with petrol.

#### Increase in cases of crimes on Eastern Railway during 1973

6120. SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of robberies, lootings and thefts on the Eastern Railway have sharply increased in 1973 in comparison to 1971; and

(b) if so, the figures thereof and what new steps have been taken to combat them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b) (1) As indicated by the figures given below, while there has been some increase in the incidence of cases of robbery and looting (dacoity), there is considerable decrease in cases of thefts of passengers' property on the Eastern Railway during the year 1973, as compared to the year 1971:—

	1971	1973
Robbery . . . . .	27	61
Looting (dacoity) . . . . .	28	37
Thefts of passengers' property . . . . .	1241	663

(2) The following preventive steps are being taken to check the incidence