

(b) and (c). Of only about 20,000 casual labour and substitutes discharged for participation in the illegal strike out of about three lakhs so employed by Indian Railways, about 12,000 have already been re-engaged. While the remaining cases will continue to be reviewed, their re-engagement is subject to works and resources position.

Investigation into the Causes of Fire in Upper India Express

2143. SHRI DHAMANKAR:
SHRI CHANDULAL
CHANDRAKAR:
SHRI HARI SINGH:
SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE
SHARMA:
SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY:
SHRI VASANT SATHE:
SHRI RAM SHEKHAR:
PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI RAM SHEKHAR:
SHRI HUKAM CHAND
KACHWAI:
SARDAR SWARAN SINGH
SOKHI:
SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD
VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have investigated into the causes of the fire that broke out in the Upper India Express near Allahabad, if so, the findings thereof; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check the recurrence of such accidents on the Railways?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a). The accident has been inquired into by the Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety, Northern Circle, Lucknow. According to

his provisional finding, the accident was caused as a result of the ignition of some bags containing a highly inflammable material (suspected to be nitro cellulose or similar material) by the spark of either a 'Bidi' or 'Hukka' that was being smoked by some passengers who perished in the fire.

(b). Carriage of explosives, dangerous and inflammable articles as luggage in train compartments is already prohibited under law. In addition, preventive steps are continuously being taken to prevent all categories of accidents including fires in trains by means of exhibition of posters, films, advertisements and announcements on public address system. Notices are also displayed in the coaches warning the passengers not to throw lighted matches or cigarettes or light stoves or sigris or carry petrol, films or other inflammable material inside the compartments.

Dispute between Management and Employees of Fertilizer and Chemicals Limited, Travancore

2144. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the outstanding disputes pending settlement between the management and employees of the Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited, Travancore; and

(b) whether the employees have threatened to resort to direct action if the management fails to take necessary steps to redress their grievances and if so, the steps taken by Government to settle the dispute between the management and the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b). One of the outstanding matters, which was pending, related to the implementation of the Agreement entered into between the management