

investigated by the Government Railway Police and every possible effort is made by them to recover the stolen property and restore it to their owners after completion of the necessary legal formalities.

(2) The following steps have been taken to check the incidence of thefts and pilferages of booked consignments:—

- (i) All important yards, goods sheds, transshipment/repacking points etc. are being guarded round the clock by Railway Protection Force.
 - (ii) Nominated goods trains particularly those carrying high valued commodities are being escorted by the Railway Protection Force in vulnerable sections.
 - (iii) Special drives are conducted against the receivers of stolen property and cases are prosecuted under the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1966.
 - (iv) Plain clothed Railway Protection Force staff are deployed to keep watch on the activities of criminals.
 - (v) Assistance and co-operation of Railway Trade Unions has been sought for prevention and detection of crimes on the Railways.
 - (vi) Necessary co-operation is maintained with the State Police authorities for keeping surveillance over bad characters operating on the Railways.
- (3) The possibility of constituting unified Police Force by combining the existing Government Railway Police under the State Governments and the Protection Force under the control of the Railway Ministry is also under examination.

Fixation of Pay of Signallers when promoted as Assistant Station Masters, Delhi Division (Northern Railway)

26. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the signallers in the previous scale of Rs. 60—150 when promoted to Assistant Station Master in scale of Rs. 64—170 got one increment in all the Indian Railways;

(b) whether one increment was not granted to the signallers in Delhi Division who have been promoted to the grade of Assistant Station Master despite many representations; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No

(b) Not granted.

(c) Under the rules existing prior to 1-4-61, pay of Signallers grade Rs. 60—150 (PS) on promotion as Assistant Station Masters in scale of Rs. 64—170 (revised to Rs. 80—170 w.c.f. 1-4-56) used to be fixed at the next stage in the promotional grade. After 1-4-61, the pay of the staff on promotion to the higher grades is fixed by allowing one increment in the lower grade and then fixing at the next incremental stage in the promotion grade.

Looting of Railway property at Nandyal Railway Station

27 SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was an open loot of railway properties at Nandyal Railway Station (S. C. Railway) on the 31st October, 1974;