

There has been a noticeable improvement in staff discipline.

However, there is some increase in the incidence of thefts and pilferages on Railways, which is attributable to deterioration in law and order situation in Bihar, scarcity of foodgrains, high prices of essential commodities etc.

Survey for Rail Line to Khowai Town Paharmura via Bangladesh

1065. SHRI DASARATHA DEB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Merchant Association of Khowai subdivision in the State of Tripura regarding the establishment of rail links to either Khowai town or Paharmura via Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) whether Government propose to conduct a survey for it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Such request for the establishment of rail links to either Khowai town or Paharmura via Bangladesh can only be considered if routed through the Ministry of External Affairs or sponsored by the Bangladesh Government as has been done in case of rail links from Akhaura (in Bangladesh) to Agartala and from Belonia station (in Bangladesh) to Belonia town in Tripura.

India's participation in Discussions with Oil Exporting Countries

1066. SHRI NIMBALKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World's major oil exporting countries declared their readiness at a meeting in Algiers to enter into talks with the consuming nations on lines proposed by the President of France;

(b) whether the Indian Government proposes to participate in these talks; and

(c) if so, what will be India's stand there?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI):

(a) The Oil Producing and Exporting countries meeting at Algiers have welcomed favourably the dialogue between the industrialised countries and the other developing countries, and are agreeable to participate in an international conference such as that proposed by France and which will deal with raw materials and development.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Our broad approach is to participate in the conference in a spirit of co-operation and mutual understanding.

Enquiry into Bursting of Crackers by Railway Employees after the death of Shri L. N. Mishra

1067. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was brought to the notice of his Ministry that crackers were burst and victory was celebrated by some employees of Railway in the Fairlie place, Head Office of Eastern Railway at Calcutta after news of the death of Shri L. N. Mishra was broadcast by A.I.R.;

(b) if so, who were these employees; and

(c) whether any enquiry was made in this matter?