

Fire in Diesel Tankers Near Botad Railway Station

4088. SHRI BENI SHANKER SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether two diesel oil tankers of a goods train were set on fire by a mob of over 4,000 students at the Outer signal of Botad railway station, about 167 Km from Ahmedabad on the 28th November, 1968;

(b) whether any inquiry has been made into the incident; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor, the estimated loss and the action taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) No. However, a mob of students detained a goods train and took out some gunny bags, emptied their contents and set the bags on fire. Tankers or wagons did not catch fire.

(b) Yes, the incident was enquired into by the District Magistrate Bhavnagar and Deputy Inspector General, Criminal Investigating Department Crime and Railways, Ahmedabad.

(c) The students were protesting against some increase in tuition fees in high school classes in Gujarat State. The estimated cost of damage to the Railways is about Rs. 4,000/-. Twentysix persons were arrested and a case was registered at Botad Police Station on Crime No. 174/68 under Sections 143, 147, 149, 332, 336, 337, 353 and 427, Indian Penal Code and 121, 127 and 128 Indian Railways Act.

M/s A. H. Wheeler & Co's Bookstalls at Railway Stations

4089. SHRI S. M. SOLANKI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have given the contract of bookstalls to Messrs. A. H. Wheeler & Company permanently on all the Railway stations of India ;

(b) if so, reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government invited tenders or gave them the contract by private negotiations ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) No.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) A statement giving the information is attached.

Statement

(c) M/s A. H. Wheeler & Co. have been holding the bookstall contracts at a number of Railway stations for many years and it is not known whether the contracts were allotted to them by inviting tenders or by negotiations.

2. The contracts with the firm have been extended from time to time in terms of the agreements which contained a provision giving the firm an option to extend the contracts at the end of the stipulated period of each contract. While extending the contracts from 1-1-1967, the provision in the agreements giving the firm an option to extend the contracts at the end of the contract period has been deleted after holding negotiations with the firm.

12.07 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER MINES AND MINERAL (REGULATION AND DEVELOPMENT) ACT.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications under sub-section (1) of section 28 of the Mines and Mineral (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 :

(1) G S. R. 2053 published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd November, 1968 making certain amendment to the Second Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-2611/68.]