

Assault on Passengers in Train at Dhrangadhra (Western Railway)

272. SHRI JAI SINGH :
 SHRI HARDYAL DEVGUN :
 SHRI YAJNA DATT
 SHARMA :
 SHRI P. VISWAMBHARAN :
 SHRI SAMAR GUHA :
 SHRI RAM CHARAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 20th May, 1969 some military men who entered the compartment of a train at Dhrangadhra on the Western Railway assaulted some passengers; and

(b) if so, the details of the incident;

(c) whether his Ministry has taken up the matter with the Ministry of Defence to see that military men, who are provided with arms, do not involve themselves in such incidents;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Defence Ministry and whether the correspondence, if any, that might have taken place would be laid on the Table; and

(e) the action taken against the culprits and the steps taken by Government to provide protection to Railway passengers?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) Yes. The incident occurred on 19.5.1969, and not on 20.6.1969.

(b) On 19.5.69, one Shri Jaydevbhai of Halvad, with member of his family, boarded a third class compartment of train No. 121 Down at Dhrangadhra railway station. The train started from Dhrangadhra at 20. 12 hrs. As the train pulled out of the railway station, two persons (who were military sepoy in plain clothes) entered the compartment and started passing vulgar remarks at the ladies. When others protested, one of them whipped out a country made pistol and opened fire causing injuries to Shri Jaydevbhai on his left hand and two fingers were cut off. When the other members of the family tried to catch him, the other assailant assaulted them with a knife causing serious injuries to his sister and simple injuries to

three daughters of Jaydevbhai. During the incident, the alarm chain was pulled and the train was brought to a halt. The Guard and one Police Constable on duty were informed of the incident. In the meanwhile one accused had slipped away, but the other was caught by the family. The Police Constable on duty took charge of the accused. Subsequently the second accused was also taken into custody by the military authorities.

(c) As it was a country-made pistol, illicitly in the possession of the accused and not a Government fire arm supplied to military personnel, the question of taking up the matter with the Defence Ministry does not arise.

(d) The question does not arise.

(e) An offence was registered at Surendranagar Railway Police Station *vide* C. R. No. 17/69 u/ss.307, 324, 354 and 34 IPC, and Section 25 (a) of the Arms Act, against the two accused persons. The case is being tried by a Court Martial.

As far as possible, night passenger trains are being escorted by Government Railway Police personnel for the safety of passengers.

Supply of Machinery to Bokaro Steel Plant

273. SHRI JAI SINGH :
 SHRI HARDYAL DEVGUN :
 SHRI YAJNA DATT
 SHARMA :
 SHRI R. K. AMIN :
 SHRI MEETHA LAL MEENA :
 SHRI H. AJMAL KHAN :
 SHRI TULSIDAS DASSAPPA :
 SHRI D. N. PATODIA :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the delivery schedule is not being adhered to by the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi and by the suppliers in the private sector, which may lead to further revision of scheduled target of the Bokaro Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?