

1	2	3	4
Northern	1977-79	106	24
	1978-79	116	13
	1979-80	101	29
North Eastern	1977-78	81	13
	1978-79	74	15
	1979-80	47	7
Northeast Frontier	1977-78	78	3
	1978-79	84	6
	1979-80	59	8
Southern	1977-78	89	15
	1978-79	87	11
	1979-80	63	7
South Central	1977-78	76	6
	1978-79	94	4
	1979-80	72	5
South Eastern	1977-78	132	8
	1978-79	150	9
	1979-80	111	7
Western	1977-78	145	15
	1978-79	143	18
	1979-80	123	19
Total	1977-78	866	93
	1978-79	931	86
	1979-80	694	89

Figures for the year 1979-80 are from April to December.

(c) Since failure of railway staff is the largest single factor responsible for accidents, Safety Organisations on the Railways have been engaged in a relentless campaign to create greater safety consciousness amongst the staff connected with running of trains and to ensure that staff do not violate rules or indulge in short-cut methods that may lead to accidents. Examination of trains and spot checks in carriage and wagon depots have been intensified and greater care is being paid to the proper maintenance of track. In order to reduce dependence on the human element, sophisticated aids like ultra-sonic flaw detectors for wheels, axles and rails, axle counters, track circuiting etc. are being introduced progressively.

As most of the accidents at level crossings are caused by rash and negligent acts of road users, railways have

been conducting educative campaigns amongst the road users by distributing leaflets, pamphlets, exhibiting slides in cinema halls etc. Surprise checks are also conducted in coordination with State Police authorities to ensure rigid compliance with Motor Vehicle Rules by road users. In addition, potentially hazardous unmanned level crossings are being manned at the cost of the railways.

Bonus to the Workers

*62. SHRI CHITTA BASU:

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA
BOSE ALLURI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to have fresh look into the question of bonus to the workers;

(b) if so, whether any steps have since been initiated in this direction; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Various suggestions have been received for further amendment of the Payment of Bonus Act. These are under examination. Government will take a decision in the matter after consulting representatives of workers and others concerned.

Britain's New Immigration Rules

*63 SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has drawn the attention of the British Home Secretary, Mr. Whitelaw, on Britain's new rules for immigrants, to anomalies arising from the Home Secretary's disregard, in making changes of Indian customs and conventions in relation to arranged marriages, to the attitude towards ageing parents and to dependent children; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The British Government published a White Paper in November 1979 on proposed changes in British Immigration rules. The Acting High Commissioner of India in United Kingdom had a discussion with the British Home Secretary Mr. Whitelaw on the proposed changes and left a note with him making some suggestions to alleviate the hardships for the people of Indian origin in Britain. It is hoped that the British Government, which is understood to be considering further action on the White Paper proposals, will take into account our views.

Expansion of Diego Garcia

*64. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:

SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKHRA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that USA have decided to expand Diego Garcia Military base in the Indian Ocean;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to our reports, the U.S. Defence Department has announced that funds would be sought in the 1981 Budget, starting October 1980, for further development of the harbour, the aircraft parking space and runways, and fuel storage facilities in Diego Garcia.

(c) In accordance with our established policy, we continue to oppose foreign military presence, including bases in any country. Our Permanent Representative in a recent statement in the UN General Assembly expressed our 'grave concern' at the recent developments in the Asian region including the Indian Ocean. This view has also been stressed at high level meetings with foreign governments.

Deteriorating Labour Situation in the Country

*65. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state;

(a) what are the reasons for deteriorating labour situation in the country during the last 2-1/2 years and what are the reasons for the failure of the previous Government to take remedial action;