

Increase in Claims in respect of losses on Indian Railways

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

(a) what was the total claim in respect of the losses which the Indian Railways paid to the parties in the year preceding the organisation of the Railway Protection Force;

(b) the total claims of the losses in the years 1973 and 1974;

(c) whether since its organisation, Railway Protection Force has been expanded; and

(d) whether in view of the ever increasing claims, the expansion of Railway Protection Force is justified?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Claims for compensation are paid for various cause, such as, thefts, pilferages, loss or consignments, damages due to wet, breakage, leakage, etc. Amount paid as compensation for thefts, pilferages and losses during the year 1958-59, the year preceding the reorganisation to the Watch and Ward into Railway Protection Force, was Rs. 204.98 lakhs.

(b) Claims statistics are maintained financial year-wise. The amount paid was Rs. 912.95 lakhs in 1972-73, Rs. 964.18 lakhs in 1973-74 and Rs. 757.24 lakhs in the first nine months of 1974-75.

(c) Yes. The expansion of the Force has been due mainly to the raising of a Special Force called the Railway Protection Special Force for the protection of the railway track and other installations in the North-Eastern Region in the wake of Chinese aggression in 1962 and Indo-Pak conflict of 1965 and for the protection of new assets acquired by the railways.

(d) The increase in claims for compensation paid cannot be viewed in isolation in relation to expansion of the Railway Protection Force only. The situation regarding crime on the Railways is linked with the general law and order situation in the country which is showing a rising trend so far as crime is concerned. Allowance has also to be made for the growth in traffic and the increase in general price level.

Broad Gauge Covered Wagon Supply for Hubli Division (South Central Railways)

*401. SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether Hubli Division of South Central Railway has been facing difficulty in maintaining normal level of loading on the broad gauge system and the transhipment performance at Miraj Transhipment point from metre gauge to broad gauge for want of adequate number of broad gauge covered wagons. and

(b) if so, the steps taken to improve the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. There was a temporary difficulty recently in loading from Broad Gauge system of Hubli Division due to congestion of traffic on Western Railway moving towards the drought affected areas of Surashtra by the Viramgam and Sabarmati transshipment points. The transshipment of traffic at Miraj also had a temporary set back. The transshipment performance has since improved.

Report of Committee on Reservation and Booking

*402. SHRI G. V. KRISHNAN Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the progress of the work of the Committee on Reservation and Booking and when its work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): The "Committee on Reservation and Booking—1972" submitted its First Report in October, 1973. The Committee is expected to submit the Final Report by 30th June, 1975.

Licences issued to M/s. Hoechst and other Drug Firms

*403. SHRI BHALJIBHAI PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the broad features of the industrial licences, permission letters, COB licences issued to M/s. Hoechst,

Abbott Laboratories, Alkali Chemicals Corporation of India and M/s Bayer (1) Limited during the Fourth Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether any fresh terms of collaboration were adopted or the existing collaboration agreements amended, because of the issue of these licences/permission letters, and if so, the broad features of each of them; and

(c) which are the formulations manufactured by these firms without any industrial licences and the reasons for allowing them to do so?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH):

(a) and (b). A statement indicating industrial licence No./ permission letter No. COB licence No. and date, item of manufacture and capacity and collaboration/amendment of existing agreement approved if any during the Fourth Plan Period in respect of M/s. Hoechst Pharmaceuticals Ltd., M/s. Abbott Laboratories India Ltd. and M/s. Bayer (India) Ltd. is attached. No approval of the said type was granted to M/s. Alkali and Chemicals Corporation of India Ltd. during the above period.

(c) Details as to whether the said companies are manufacturing any drug formulation without approval are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.