

**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. 984.18 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?