

discussions regarding this matter with Sir Alec Home in March and further talks with Sir Max Brown. The matter is still pending and their reply is awaited.

SHRI N. K. SANGHI : The hon. Minister knows very well that the most important member in the European Common Market is France, which vetoed twice the admission of UK into the European Common Market. May I know whether this topic of exports to FEC was raised when recently Shri L. N. Mishra had discussions with the French officials on his way to the UNCTAD Conference ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : It is true that the Minister of Foreign Trade had discussions with the Ministers of France. But the details are not available since he has not come back from Santiago, Chile.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO : Since Britain have not agreed to continue the preference, may I know what is the possible loss that India would incur in the matter of textile exports to U.K. ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Our textiles used to enjoy free entry to U. K. After this new arrangement, we are given only a particular quota of two million sq. yards and there is an imposition of duty of 15 per cent. To that extent our export of textiles will definitely suffer. It is too early to assess how much the loss that we may incur will be.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Is it a fact that there is an anomaly in India of not subjecting British goods to import duties as a measure against their activities ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : This new arrangement is not a discrimination against India because it affects all the Asian Commonwealth countries. So, I cannot contribute to the hon. Member's view that there is a discrimination against India.

Looting in Lucknow-Agra express

*442. **SHRI P. M. MEHTA :**
SHRI AMARNATH CHAWLA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether fifty passengers travelling by the Lucknow-Agra Express were robbed of their valuables worth about rupees one lakh by the dacoits on the 18th March, 1972 ; and

(b) if so, the brief facts of the incident and the measures taken by Government to check the incidents of looting in the running trains ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. On the night of 19-3-1972, between 0055 to 0130 hr., valuables worth about Rs. 55000/- were robbed by 6-7 dacoits from the running train.

(b) A statements giving brief details is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Details in brief are as under :-

On 19-3-72 between 0055 to 0130 hours, just after the departure of 13 Up Lucknow-Agra Express from Kannauj, 6 persons, equipped with fire arms, boarded two tier coach No. GTCW 7657 which was fourth from the rear. They fired four shots in the air and looted the personal belongings of the passengers worth Rs. 55000/- approximately and threw out the same from the compartment. They got down by pulling the alarm chain near Jasoda railway station. As soon as the train stopped the Government Railway Police escort party and train guard visited the victimised compartment. The train was pushed back to a distance of 5 KM and luggage worth Rs. 39000/- approximately thrown out by the dacoits was recovered.

Seven (7) criminals have been arrested so far and efforts are being made to arrest their other associates also.

In this connection, the Government Railway Police, Farrukhabad have registered case No. 44 under section 395/3/7 IPC on 19-3-72 and further investigation is in progress.

The following measures are taken for preventing dacoities, robberies and other

heinous crimes in trains and railway premises :

(a) To the extent possible, Government Railway Police escorts are provided on all important night passenger trains to ensure safety of passengers in the affected areas.

(b) Railway Protection Force staff have been directed to active co-operation to Government Railway Police and Civil Police in tracking down criminals responsible for such incidents on Railways.

(c) Close liaison is maintained with the Government Railway Police and Civil Police to keep strict surveillance over the bad characters operating in the Section.

(d) Raids in the affected sections are also arranged by Government Railway Police ; and

(e) Frequent meetings at all levels are held by the Railway Protection Force with the Government Railway Police and Police Officials with a view to ensuring better co-ordination and effective prevention and detection of crime.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : Murders, dacoities and robberies in trains is a horrible situation. May I know from the hon. Minister as to how many incidents of this type have occurred during the last one year and whether there is any proposal, under the consideration of the Railways, to give protection to running trains on a large scale ?

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : I have not got the figures readily at hand for the whole year. I will supply them to hon. Member if he wants.

The measures that are being taken are : Government Railway Police escort the trains during night time; the Railway Protection Force staff have been directed to extend active cooperation to Government Railway Police and civil police in tracking down criminals responsible for such incidents on the railways close liaison is maintained with the Government Railway Police and the civil police to keep strict surveillance over the bad characters operating in the section; raids in the affected sections are

also arranged by Government Railway Police; frequent meetings of all the concerned railway officials are held in order to prevent as well as trace the crime being committed. The hon. Member no doubt knows that these things happen ones in away. Therefore, it is impossible to take preventive steps when dacoits commit their crimes because they are not expected to Commit Crimes on a certain day or at certain times. It is very unfortunate that dacoities are still going on in this country I might tell the hon. Member that these things happen on a larger scale only in U.P. and Bihar and not in the rest of the country(Interruption).

SHRI PILOO MODY : The dacoits in Delhi have not yet surrendered.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : May I know from the hon. Minister whether any long-pending proposal for the re-organisation of the Railway Protection Force is under consideration; if, so, when it is likely to be implemented ?

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : Re-organisation by itself will not mend matters. I shall take the House into my confidence. What really is the malady with the Railway Protection Force is that there are a lot of persons who themselves commit these crimes and are collaborating with the thieves. It has become a problem for me to trace who they are. The provisions of the Constitution and the laws made thereunder do not lend themselves to an easy disposal. In fact, if the Railway Protection Force personnel were completely honest, 75 per cent of the thefts could be stopped. That is the discovery I have made. I am struggling very helplessly against this aspect of the picture.

श्री नरसिंह नारायण पांडे : इस डकैती में अभी तक कितने आदमी पकड़े गए हैं और क्या हम डकैती में आर. पी. एफ. के लोगों का भी कुछ हाथ था ?

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : The criminals arrested so far are seven people ; the others have not yet been traced There is no evidence in this case of connecting the crime with the Railway Protection Force.

SHRI VASANTRAO PURUSHOTTAM SATHE : Will the hon. Minister please state whether protection by guards was available on this occasion and whether in view of the fact, as he has stated, that these incidents occur only on these lines, regular protection of guards will be made available for these trains particularly at night time ?

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : That is what I said ; we will provide that.

SHRI VASANTRAO PURUSHOTTAM SATHE : He has not answered my question. The first question was whether it was available in this particular case.

MR. SPEAKER : The statement laid on the Table contains that information.

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN : While answering a question, the Minister replied that this kind of an incident occurs only in U. P. and Madhya Pradesh also. Recently, in the South Central Railways, two incidents of dacoity occurred and a woman was also murdered. What is the answer of the Minister to that ?

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : I am happy that my hon. friend from south claims his right to these things in his region also. But these are stray cases, not organised dacoities.

SHRI R. V. BADE : In the statement, the Minister says :

“Close liaison is maintained with the Government Railway Police and civil police to keep strict surveillance.....”

Is it a fact that there is co-operation between the Railway police and the State police ?

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : That was the case some months ago. As the honourable House is aware, I have established coordination committees in every State consisting of the State police, the Railway Protection Force and the Government Railway Police. The Home Secretary of the State Government concerned is the Chairman. This coordination has been well established.

SHRI AMAR NATH CHAWLA : I appreciate the information given by the hon. Minister as stated in this case. What I would like to know is whether, out of these 7 criminals who have been arrested, any of the 6 persons who boarded the train are also included in these 7 criminals. Secondly, I want to know whether the fire-arms which were used and the shots fired were muffled and their sound could not be heard by the Government Railway Police who spotted the train, and what was the distance between the carriage in which the police escort was travelling and the carriage which was affected.

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : It was fourth from behind the coach. But I will not be able to answer the other question as to whether the shots were muffled or not because that is the matter to be decided through investigation.

Resignations by HHEC Employees posted abroad

*444. **SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA :**
SHRIMATI SAVITRI SHYAM :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some employees of the Handicrafts and Handloom Exports Corporation of India who were posted abroad have resigned from their posts on the expiry of their term of tenure and if so, the number of such employees;

(b) the reasons given by them for tendering their resignations ; and

(c) the factors weighing with Government to accept their resignations without calling them back to India ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (c) . A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. Six employees of the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India who were posted abroad