

**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

resigned from service of the Corporation on the expiry of their tenure of deputation.

(b) The employees have resigned mostly on personal grounds.

(c) Government do not have powers to refuse grant of ordinary passport to such persons under the passport Act 1967.

**SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA :** Whatever may be reasons for their resignations. It looks that these employees have taken advantage of the passport issued to them. In view of this, may I know whether the Government are considering that those employees be called back and, if so, what steps are being contemplated by the Government to call these employees back and, if not, the reasons for not calling these employees back ?

**SHRI A. C. GEORGE :** In the beginning, these employees requested for continued stay in the United States. They were asked to return to India immediately and they were warned that in case they failed to return to India in time, they will forfeit the return ticket for them as well as for their families. But in spite of that warning, they preferred to remain in the United States and tendered their resignations. The H.E.C. has no other alternative but to accept the resignations. As per the existing rules, I am not quite sure whether we have any provision for the repatriation of these employees.

**SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA :** Will the Government tell the House the names of these employees and the respective posts held by them ?

**SHRI A. C. GEORGE :** Yes. The New York office of H. E. C.—Shri Ram Narayan, Clerk; Shri J. S. Premi, Stenographer; Shri U. S. Chopra, Stores Organiser; Shri T. K. Anantnarayanan, Organiser and Shri Adya Prasad, Chauffeur-cum-Commodity Assistant. The sixth person is, Shrimati Sarla Sharma, Assistant Manager in the Montreal office of H.E.C.

**SHRIMATI SAVITRI SHYAM :** The hon. Minister has just said that they were requested to return to India. But, Sir, may I know what were the terms and condi-

tions of the appointment? Were they to come back to India on expiry of their term? More over, is it a fact or is it within the knowledge of the Government that they have joined other foreign concerns dealing with trade with India or they have started their own business. If it is so, what steps Government propose to take to check this tendency? Those who had gone at the expenses of the Government and those who had learnt expertise at the expenses of the Government have to come back. What steps Government propose to take to check this tendency ?

**SHRI A. C. GEORGE :** I agree with the hon. Member that these employees clearly violated and misused the opportunities given to them. In their terms of deputation it was clearly stipulated that, on expiry of their term, they were to return to India. I may inform the hon. Member that, as per our information, they did not start their own business and they did not join any foreign business. One of them joined the permanent Mission of Bhutan in the United States and the others are employed in some other capacities. I accept the suggestion of the hon. Member that, in future, we should try to put more strict conditions and enough provision for safeguards.

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :** I should like to know whether these employees still continue to be Indian nationals or they have acquired American citizenship. Secondly, why were their resignations accepted? Why were their services not terminated? Why were they not dismissed by the Government of India ?

**SHRI A. C. GEORGE :** We have no specific information regarding the point about nationality. The information available with us does not say that they have taken the United States' citizenship.

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :** What about the latter part of my question? Why were their resignations accepted? Why were they not dismissed ?

**SHRI A. C. GEORGE :** They were in the United States. *(Interruption)* I will try to implement the measures stipulated in their terms of appointment. Beyond that,

as they were in a foreign country, there was the impossibility of performance.

**SHRI A. P. SHARMA** : In view of the growing unemployment in the country, what is wrong if these people resign and take up some other jobs? I want to know what is wrong in this. (*Interruption*) Any one who is employed in Government is free to resign. Now if these people have resigned and have taken up better employment, what wrong the Government see in this? (*Interruption*)

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE** : They were to come back to India. They violated the terms of contract.

**SHRI A. P. SHARMA** : The utmost that Government can do is that they can demand the ticket fare. Why should they come back to India? I want to know what is the policy of the Government in such matters? Do they propose to call those employees back to India and then compel them to go back or will they accept their resignations to enable them to take up better employment there? (*Interruption*) There is no question of America. I am talking in general terms. (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER** : You are a senior Member. There should be some limit..... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI A. C. GFORGE** : Regarding the broader question I will not be in a position to answer, but I will limit myself to the terms of employment and there they have violated the terms of employment. We consulted the External Affairs Ministry and the External Affairs Ministry was of the view that there are not enough grounds for repatriation of these employees to India and refused the grant of ordinary passports to them under the Passports Act of 1947.

**SHRI PILOO MODY** : I would like to know from the Minister, particularly in view of his last reply as to what was the non-performance of the contract. If they had contracted to you to perform a particular function for a particular period of time, if that period has expired, where is the non-performance of contract? If any thing, these employees have saved you the expense of repatriating them.

**SHRI A. C. GEORGE** : I do maintain that they have violated the terms of employment.....

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE** : They have to come back.

**SHRI A. C. GEORGE** : You may not agree with me that they have violated the terms of employment because they were deputed and appointed on specific terms that on the expiry of the term they have to return.

**SHRI PILOO MODY** : I didn't ask whether they violated it or not, I asked as to what was the non-performance. I could understand if you had sent them for a three-year period and if they resign after one year, then there is non-performance. But here it is after the expiry of the contracted period. Just because they do not want to come back, you want to penalise them? How many of you would like to come back.

**SHRI A. C. GFORGE** : We view this as a mal-practice because such precedents may be misused by others also.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU** : I want to put a specific question, Sir.

गवर्नमेंट गलत कामी करती है, गलत बताती है।

#### Increase in Price of Coal

\*445. **SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN** : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have agreed to increased the price of coal ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how much money Railways will have to pay more annually due to the increase in price ?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA)** : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The increase is meant to compen-