

Introduction of Express from New Delhi to Madras.

*357. SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce an Express to Madras from New Delhi similar to the Rajdhani Express to Calcutta; and

(b) If so, when it is likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) and (b). Ministry of Railways have accepted in principle the need for introduction of a Rajdhani Express from Delhi to Madras. This, however, will have to wait till the route from Mathura to Madras is improved to cater for the higher speed.

Industries Suffering for Wanting Coal

*359. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH :
DR. RANEN SEN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Board has stated that there is no shortage of Wagons and Coal also;

(b) if so, whether the Railway Board has received representation regarding the demand for coal from the manufacturing industries that they are suffering badly in the country for want of coal; and

(c) Government reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) to (c). There is no shortage of railway wagons or coal as such to meet the current level of the country's coal demands.

The Railway Board have, however, received representations from the manufacturing industries about their difficulties in getting coal particularly from the West Bengal and Bihar fields.

These difficulties have been caused by the Railways' inability to function normally in the Eastern sector. The working of Eastern and South Eastern Railways has been seriously affected by the generally poor law and order conditions in West Bengal and the large scale increase in miscreants activities such as, the theft of wagon fittings, over-

head traction wires, telecommunication cables, track materials etc., victimisation of passenger and goods trains, assault and murders of railway staff, looting and arson of railway property at stations and offices, lightening and prolonged strikes by staff, bomb attacks at stations, yards and colonies, buidhs, hartals, and other stoppages of work paralysing railway operation and many other such anti-social activities. Proper action to control such activities lies with the State Governments. The Railways on their part have strengthened their own Protection Force in the area to the maximum extent possible. Closest possible co-ordination is being maintained by the Railway authorities at all levels with the State Government of West Bengal to enable them to deal with such activities effectively. They have been requested at the highest level to take firm and effective steps to restore normalcy in railway working in the area. There has, however, been no improvement in the situation so far.

Disruption of Train Service on the Eastern and South Eastern Sectors of Indian Railways

*360. SHRI H. M. PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be please to state :

(a) whether Government have come to know of several cases whether attempts were made to disrupt service by anti-social and anti-notional elements on the Eastern and South Eastern sectors of the Indian Railways ;

(b) if so, the various instance in this regard known to Government ;

(c) whether he recently called a meeting of senior officers of various Departments to assess the situation ; and

(d) if so, the main points discussed thereat ?

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

(b) A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—345/71*].

(c) Yes.

(d) A statement indicating the decisions taken at the meeting is laid on the table of the Sabha. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—345/71*].