

SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA : The other day, the Railway Board wanted to place these articles with a particular person. But I said, "Decentralise this purchase." In fact, in Haryana and Punjab areas, so many small industries are producing these fans and other things, and I have decentralised even the purchase, so that they may readily be purchased in the market according to availability.

श्री हुकम चण्ड कछबाय : श्री टायर के अन्दर एक ही तकलीफ नहीं है। पंखों कि चोरी के साथ कंडक्टरों की कमी की भी काफी तकलीफ है। क्या यह बात सही है कि कुछ दिनों से श्री टायर कोचेज से कंडक्टरों को हटा कर अटेंडेंट कर दिये गये हैं? इस से यह तकलीफ है कि अटेंडेंट टिकट नहीं बना सकते और न लोगों को सीटें दे सकते हैं। जो लोग साढ़े चार रुपये देकर जगह लेना चाहते हैं उन को बड़ी दिक्कत उठानी पड़ती है। उन को गार्ड के पास जाना पड़ता है। आप ने जो यह पद्धति कुछ जनों में लगाई है क्या उस को आप समाप्त करना चाहते हैं? क्या यह बात सही है कि इन डिब्बों में पानी की भी कोई ठीक व्यवस्था नहीं हो पाई है? उन में पानी ठीक से भरा जाय इस के लिये क्या व्यवस्था की जा रही है?

SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA : That does not arise out of this question.

श्री रामदेव सिंह : मंत्री महोदय ने बतलाया कि रेलवे में बड़े पैमाने पर चोरियां हो रही हैं और उन के स्टेटमेंट से ऐसा जाहिर होता है कि वह इन चोरियों को रोकने के बारे में काफी सीरियस हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उन की छान बीन से यह पता चलता है कि रेलवे में जो चोरियां होती हैं उन में 90 फी सदी चोरियों का सम्बन्ध स्वयम् रेलवे विभाग के मुलाजिमों से होता है, जो कि चोरियों में शरीक होते हैं?

SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA : Sir, I am inclined to agree to some extent with the hon. Member. It may be that some railway employees are in league with these operations of theft. I have issued strict instructions to see that there is no theft. Only this morning I called the Director of Vigilance and the I G of Police and all those people, and I have asked them to issue a circular so that the responsibility might be fixed even in each zone.

श्री रामानुतार शास्त्री : क्या यह बात सच है कि पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे में यार्डों से ही पंखों की चोरियां होती हैं, चलने के वक्त नहीं? अगर यह बात सच है तो यार्ड्स के अन्दर चोरियां न हों इस के लिये क्या आप ने कोई खास व्यवस्था की है? और अगर नहीं की है, तो क्या करने का विचार रखते हैं?

SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA : Yes, Sir; in the yards, we post the Railway Protection Force people, and also there is patrolling. Many of these things have been introduced.

Incidents of Wagon breaking on Eastern Railway.

* 1660. **SHRI JAGADISH BHATTACHARYYA :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of incidents of wagon breaking on the Eastern Railway year-wise during the last two years;

(b) the value of property lost, destroyed or stolen through wagon breaking in the Eastern Railway, year-wise, during the last two years;

(c) the causes of decrease or increase in the incidents of wagon breaking; and

(d) whether some of the officers of the Railway Protection Force are suspected to be aiding and abetting such anti-social activities?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) :

- (a) 1969 = 431 Nos.
 1970 = 638 Nos.
 1971 = 315 Nos.

(upto 30th June)

- (b) 1969 = Rs. 524556/-
 1970 = Rs. 1275646/-
 1971 = Rs. 600162/-

(upto 30th June)

(c) The increase is due to deteriorating law and order position.

(d) A few such cases have come to notice.

SHRI JAGADISH BHATTACHARYYA:

In view of the fact that the wagon-breakers are marked criminals and so it is not possible for them to dispose of the stolen goods very easily, I would like to know if there are some big men behind them in these nefarious operations, and if so, what steps has the Government taken so far to lay hands on them ?

SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA : In the whole history of the railway administration, no step of the kind I have taken has been taken till now. I have already enumerated the figures. In the last three months, so many people have been shot dead, and 424 people have been arrested, including the receivers of stolen property. If over and above this there are any other receivers of stolen property or bad people, I would request him to pass on the names to me.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : How many big men behind these pilferages have been caught and punished, including officials ? That is his question.

SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA : I will not be able to mention the names just now. As I said, in all sincerity I request you to give me the names of those very big people, and you will see what I do.

SHRI JAGADISH BHATTACHARYYA:
 The theft of overhead copper wires, brass

bearings and mild steel brake beams has become a common feature in the railways. This affects not only the movement of the wagons, but it also involves a great loss of railway property. Is the Minister aware that in some big cities, particularly Bombay, there is a big market selling these stolen goods, and if so, will the Government undertake investigations by a high level body or by the CBI into this matter ?

SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA : All this is being done, and that is why they have been able to trace so many people and arrest them.

DR. SARADISH ROY : Day before yesterday a news item appeared in the *Jugantar* that in the bungalow of a Superintendent of Police certain stolen railway articles were found, but no steps have been taken so far. The Superintendent of Police has not even been transferred. Will the Minister clarify the position ?

SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA : It has not come to my notice. I will look into it. Meanwhile my hon. friend may pass on to me whatever information and papers he has got. I will take action.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI
 Regarding wagon-breaking incidents in the Eastern Railway, may I know whether the Minister is ready to order an immediate probe by a high level enquiry committee, particularly in the Scaldah Division railway siding and the Scaldah South railway siding, so that the wagon-breakers and also the political party behind them may be exposed ?

MR. SPEAKER : Because he brought in the newspapers, he is encouraged by that.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI :
 I am relating a fact.

MR. SPEAKER : There are a hundred and one facts which may not be within the scope of this. I see very often that because I am silent you go out of the scope. You should not do it. Are you waiting for the translation, or you do not want to reply ?

SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA : You were giving the answer as well as I could do

A high-powered committee will not be able to mend these matters. I am sure the House knows that the action we are now taking is so serious that such action has never been taken before in the railways.

Wagon Shortage for Saw Mills and Timber Industries in Kottayam

*1661. SHRI VARKEY GEORGE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortage of wagons due to which the Saw Mills and Timber Industries in Kottayam are suffering great losses and there is likelihood of the industries being closed down ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to provide wagons in that area ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Timber sizes, shooks and planks are offered for despatch and loaded at Kottayam station. Merchants normally insist on the supply of covered wagons for clearance of this traffic. Planks and shooks are also offered for despatch at other stations on the Erankulam—Kottayam—Quilon section. Most of the demands registered at Kottayam and other stations are for destinations South of Kalyan and Byculla, movement to which points has to be regulated due to limited clearance capacity over the Poona-Bombay Ghat sections, and release capacity at Byculla.

2. Within the above physical limitations, efforts have been made to maximise depatches of timber sizes, shooks and planks from Kottayam station. During the period 1st January to 29th July, 71, 8 wagons were loaded with timber sizes and 569 wagons with shooks and planks from Kottayam. On 29.7.1971, while no demands were pending for timber sizes at Kottayam, only about 45 demands for shooks and planks, most of which are for destinations South of Kalyan and Byculla were awaiting clearance at Kottayam.

SHRI VARKEY GEORGE : May I know whether the hon. minister has received a memorandum from the Saw Mill and Timber Industries Association of Kerala

stating that many saw mills and timber industries in Kerala are likely to be closed down due to shortage of wagons and if so, the steps he has taken on this representation ?

SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA : I have received the representation and we are doing our best. The hon. member knows that for these commodities, wagons are allotted on quota basis. To Bombay there is a little bottleneck because it is a ghat section. We cannot allow any number of wagons for these low priority commodities. Under the existing circumstances, I assure him that I will do my very best to see that more wagons are given. But to complain that factories themselves are likely to be closed down is an exaggerated way of making demands.

SHRI VARKEY GEORGE : In view of the shortage of wagons in India, what are the steps being taken to increase the production of wagons in our country ?

SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA : That is a different question. Nevertheless, I would like to say that there is no shortage of wagons. I have been repeatedly saying that it is the movement that is being hampered because of criminal activities in the north-eastern and northern region.

Setting up of Tanneries in North Bengal

*1663. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the business people of North Bengal are earning a lot by supplying raw leather from North Bengal to other parts of the country ;

(b) whether Government are considering any plan to establish few Tanneries in North Bengal and thereby provide jobs to the local youths ; and

(c) if so, the time by which these tanneries will be established ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHANSHYAM OZA) : (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.