

have been made. I would like to know whether all the complaints have been investigated, and if so, the findings of the investigations and whether any punishment has been given to anyone.

SBRI H. N. BAHUGUNA : In a number of cases, the finding is that the bills alleged to be inflated are not inflated, but correct bills, but in a few cases where they have been found to be inflated, appropriate remissions have been given by the authority concerned.

SHRI PILOO MODY : What about punishment ?

SHRI SUBODH HANSDA : Is it a fact that a few days back a telephone line-man was arrested in Delhi as involved in this telephone racket ?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA : Three persons have been arrested.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Is the Minister aware that in the case of inflated bills which we or others receive, we have to telephone many times to the authority concerned and tell them about the inflated bill ? That itself inflates the bill. Will steps be taken not to charge those calls made in connection with enquiry about inflated bills ?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA : I am sorry I cannot oblige Shri Banerjee the way he wants. When a bill is alleged to be inflated, due enquiry is made with referenc to the various periods, the nature of the bill, previous bills, other technical things such as testing of the meter etc. Unless the department is satisfied by genuine reasons that the bill has been inflated, no remission can possibly be made.

SHRI PILOO MODY : But is the customer satisfied ?

MR. SPEAKER : This is the second time this question has come in the House.

SHRI AMRIT NAHATA : I make 18 calls but receive a bill for 1800 !

Setting up of an Organisation to eradicate Wagon Breaking and Pilferage of Railway Goods

*836. **DR. RANEN SEN :** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Ministry has sought the help of her Ministry to set up an organisation to eradicate wagon—breaking and pilferage of Railway goods from the yards and elsewhere ; and

(b) if so, whether any practical step has been taken in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) No, Sir. However, the Ministry of Railways have sought the assistance of the Ministry of Home Affairs (Grih Mantralaya) in combating the growing incidence of crime on the Railways particularly in the Eastern region of the country.

(b) The steps taken for this purpose include the following :

- (i) The Government of West Bengal have agreed to render all possible assistance including the provision of more armed patrols to work in close liaison with the Railway Police.
- (ii) Some Units of the Central Reserve Police have also been placed at the disposal of the Supdt. Railway Police, Howarah to supplement his strength and some more if needed, will be provided for the protection of vital railway installations as also for better security of the yards and open lines.
- (iii) The Government of West Bengal have also undertaken a Scheme of patrolling of the tracks etc. to prevent theft of overhead high tension electric lines.
- (iv) They have also strengthened their staff for better collection of intelligence about crime and criminals on Railways.
- (v) The Government of West Bengal are taking action against receivers of stolen property and criminals involved in the theft of railway property.

DR. RANEN SEN : It is a well known fact that in all this theft and pilferage a section of railway employees is invariably involved. Has Government any scheme or proposal to associate the railway trade unions in the attempt to see that wagon-breaking, pilferage and other things do not take place ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : Government would certainly welcome the co-operation of the trade unions in this task.

DR. RANEN SEN : Government have to take the initiative. Have they any scheme for this ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : That is really the concern of the Railway Ministry. Here I can only answer the question on behalf of the Home Ministry to the extent that the Railway Ministry have sought our assistance. Even so, as I said, Government would welcome the co-operation of the trade unions.

DR. RANEN SEN : In view of the fact that the operation of inter-State criminal gangs is involved in this wagon-breaking, pilferage and destruction, has it been thought necessary by the Government of India or the Home Ministry to make a sort of inter-locking of the activities of the State police departments also ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : As a first step, as I said in the statement also, better intelligence is to be collected, and with the intelligence being available, wherever the ramifications of these activities are found, action will have to be taken. I have already indicated that action against receivers of stolen property and criminals involved is being undertaken by the Government of West Bengal. If we find ramifications in any other State, most certainly we shall take action there also.

श्री फूल चन्द्र वर्मा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि रेलवे यादों में चोरी को रोका जा सके उसके लिए सामाजिक संगठनों ने और जनता ने सरकार को सुझाव दिये थे तो उसके सम्बन्ध में आपने कुछ कार्यवाही की है ?

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पन्त : क्या सुझाव दिये थे वह तो मुझे मालूम नहीं है, शायद रेलवे मंत्रालय को दिये हों, लेकिन जहाँ तक इसमें जनता का सहयोग प्राप्त हो सकता है और जहाँ तक गांवों में जनता का यह सहयोग प्राप्त हो सकता है कि अगर कोई चोरी करते देखा जाये प्रोव्हरहेड ट्रांसमिशन वायर की तो उसकी खबर पुलिस को दें तो उसका स्वागत है और हमें आशा है कि ऐसा सहयोग मिलेगा ।

Renewal of Indo-U.A.R. Trade Agreement

*838. SHRI H. M. PATEL : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been invited to a report in the *Sunday Standard* dated the 13th June, 1971 saying that the Indo-U. A. R. trade is in doldrums and there is no sign of renewal of the agreement ;

(b) the impediments in the renewal of the agreement ; and

(c) the extent to which our foreign exchange earning is likely to be affected in case of agreement is not renewed ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) Government have taken note of the Press Report.

(b) and (c). The total trade between India and U.A.R. is of the order of Rs. 75 to 80 crores per annum. Some difficulties are bound to emerge in such a large volume of trade. These are usually resolved by negotiations to mutual satisfaction. Such negotiations are being conducted with the Government of U.A.R. and it is premature to forecast the final outcome at the present stage of negotiations.

SHRI H. M. PATEL : Out of this Rs. 70—Rs. 80 crores of total trade with the U.A.R., how much is accounted for by imports and much by exports.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : Our export to UAR is much bigger compared to our import from UAR. It is mainly because we only import cotton from the UAR, while we