

**SHRI B. N. KUREEL:** As I have stated already, the Central Government have responded to their request and a board which has been constituted, is to visit the spot by the end of this month, and they will sit there and formulate the schemes.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** I have a similar question, namely Q. 408 which relates to exactly the same subject

**AN HON. MEMBER:** The hon. Member is too late

**SHRI H. N. MUKHERJEE:** May I know whether Government are aware that to solve the sea and river erosion problem in West Bengal and contiguous areas, it is essential to have serious hydrological investigations in the continental shelf of the Bay of Bengal? May I know whether any steps have been taken by Government in this regard up to date and if not, why not?

**SHRI B. N. KUREEL:** The survey has been made already. The hydrological engineering experts and the IIT people have surveyed the area.

**SHRI JAGANNATH RAO.** Erosion as a result of floods and tidal waves is a recurring phenomenon in our country. Has the Government of India constituted any fund to come to the rescue of the affected States to take measures for prevention of erosion?

**SHRI B. N. KUREEL:** I have already stated that these works are included in the flood control sector which are the responsibility of the State Government. The Central Government also consider giving assistance to them when the State Governments submit specific reports and say that they are in a tight position regarding funds and that they want some assistance from us; that is being considered.

**SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA:** May I know whether it is a fact that

because of erosion and silting and due to bad planning the lower Damodar portion, especially two districts of Howrah and Hooghly, are devastated every year or every alternate year and there is havoc of the flood? Flood control is part of the DVC scheme. Due to bad scheming and bad implementation of the scheme every year people have to suffer. Have the Government any concrete plan for the development of this area, for checking of erosion and silting in the lower Damodar river so that there will not be flood every year in that area?

**SHRI B. N. KUREEL:** Some of the schemes had been taken and the Central Government have allotted Rs 11 crores for these priority works to minimise floods. That has to be spent in the remaining years of the Fourth Plan

#### Nation-Wide Drive to Check Theft and Pilferage

\*402 **SHRI RAJDEO SINGH:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the co-operation of the State Government and recognised trade unions a nation-wide drive was launched in January this year to check thefts and pilferages on Indian Railways,

(b) if so, the results achieved; and

(c) whether with the introduction of RPF the thefts and pilferages have increased or decreased?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T. A. PAI)** (a) and (b). Yes Sir. Two types of Joint Committee viz. State level Committee and Basic Unit Level Committee were set up during January 72 on each Railway to eliminate the thefts and Pilferages. As the Committees have been functioning only for a few months it is too early to assess the results. However greater consciousness has been created amongst Railwaymen to-

wards reduction of compensation claims and more co-operation is forthcoming from the State Government Authorities

(c) With the considerable increase in traffic, there is an increase in thefts and pilferages on Railways. The Railway Protection Force has been trying its best to protect and safeguard the railway property and fulfil the other duties assigned to it. The presence of the force has a great preventive effect. Steps are also afoot to reorganise this force to make it a better instrument to reduce thefts and pilferages on the Indian Railways.

**SHRI RAJDEO SINGH** The answer to part (c) of the question is not very clear. The RPF is some years old now and the Government must have made some assessment of its performance. In this context, I want to know clearly whether with the introduction of the RPF, and its cost to the Government thefts and pilferages had proportionately decreased or not?

**SHRI T A PAI** The RPF was first of all appointed as watch and ward staff of the railways, looking after the properties and only when the proportion of goods that were transported by the railway system increased, they were given certain police status in order to protect this property. Even now you cannot say that they have all the powers to deal with the situation as effectively as we wish. Nevertheless considering that we are transporting about Rs 8500 crores worth of goods every year apart from our own assets of Rs 8000 crores which are being looked after by the RPF the losses due to thefts which amount to about Rs 9 crores cannot be considered to be very much, though one would like to avoid them.

**श्री अश्वल सिंह** क्या मंत्री महोदय को मालूम है कि कुछ बरस पहले केवल तीन करोड़ रुपये का माल चोर होता था और आज दस बाह्र करोड़ का माल चोरी हो

रहा है ? यदि हा तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि आप कौन से प्रयास कर रहे हैं ताकि ये चोरियाँ रूक सकें ?

**SHRI T A PAI** The theft is in proportion to the value of the goods transported. In 1968-69 the claims were Rs 756 crores which was an increase of Rs 168 crores over the previous years. But in 1971-72 it was Rs 954 crores which was an increase of only Rs 40 lakhs over the previous years, while the prices of the commodities have gone up. I do not want to say that thefts are confined only to the railways nor do I want to condemn people unnecessarily. Any crime anywhere, whether in railways or outside should be prevented and it is our duty to protect the property we are trying to see that these losses are reduced.

**श्री इसहाक सम्भली** आर पी एफ के जिम्मे रेलवे प्रापर्टी को हिफाजत करना है। क्या सरकार को शिकायतें मिली हैं और यहाँ तक कि आज स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स ने भी शिकायतें क्या की हैं कि आर पी एफ को खत्म करके जी आर पी का ही रखा जाए और ऐसा इसलिए भी किया जाए कि आर पी एफ में कर्प्शन है और रेलवे एम्प्लॉयीज से लड़ने की शिकायतें बहुत ज्यादा मिली हैं? ये जो सुझाव आए हैं कि आर पी एफ को एबालिश किया जाए और जी आर पी के साथ इस पैरेलल आर्गनाइजेशन को न रखा जाए, इन पर सरकार गौर कर रही है ? आर पी एफ के बारे में जो शिकायतें मिली हैं उनके बारे में सरकार क्या करने जा रही है, यह भी मैं जानना चाहता हूँ।

**SHRI T A PAI** None of the State Governments have asked to disband the RPF and entrust the entire responsibility to them. On the other hand, we are also paying Rs 3 crores to the State Governments for carrying on policing activities on behalf of Government Railway Police. I am sure one is not the substitute for the

other. If you say that because of this diarchy there is some confusion, I agree with it and therefore, as I told the House, I would like to build up a task force out of these men so that we may take up this question with the State Governments to make this force really effective and we may entrust more responsibilities to them than depending on the Government Railway Police.

**श्री रामसिंह भाई बर्मा :** छोटे मवालो के उत्तर तो लम्बे चौड़े दिये जाते हैं लेकिन असली जवाब नहीं मिलता है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि रेलवे की जो चोरियाँ होती हैं वे बाहर के लोगों द्वारा की जाती है या सुरक्षा दल द्वारा भी की जाती है ?

**SHRI T. A. PAI:** I am happy this question has been asked. In 1971 (Jan. to Oct.) outsiders were 14,411 out of 15,862, Railway employees were 1272 and RPF staff 179. In 1972, during the same period out of 17,811 people, 16,098 were outsiders; 1522 were railway employees and RPF staff were 191.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Next question.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** May I ask one direct supplementary just lasting 20 seconds?

**MR. SPEAKER:** No. Don't try to argue like this as if you are selling some goods.

**Closure of Nangal Fertilizer Factory Demanded by Punjab Government**

\*404. **SHRI RAMKANWAR:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab Government have recently demanded immediate closure of the Nangal Fertilizer Factory in order to ease the present power crisis in the State; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

**THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE, AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE):**

(a) The Punjab Government have approached Central Government with a request for further reduction in power supply to the Nangal factory which at present is receiving supply at 98 MW.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

**श्री रामकंवर :** मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि पंजाब सरकार ने केन्द्रीय सरकार से नंगल उर्वरक कारखाने को बन्द करने की मांग की है तो यह कमी कितने दिन से चल रही है और कितनी और बिजली देने से वहाँ की मांगें पूरी हो जायगी और वह पूरा करने में सरकार कितनी देर और लगाएगी ?

**SHRI H. R. GOKHALE:** The shortage has unfortunately been there for a considerable time, because the supply of electricity is not available to the extent to which the Nangal project was entitled under the contractual arrangements, which was 164 MW. But this is a matter of priority. There is demand for power for irrigation also. There are other reasons like the going down of the lake level for shortage of power. While we certainly do not like that any shortage should be there, unfortunately we have to put up with this position that we carry on with 98 MW only as against 164 MW, which is the contractual supply we are entitled to. We are helpless in this matter.

**श्रीमती सावित्री श्याम :** इस प्रश्न के उत्तर का संबंध पेट्रोलियम और केमिकल्स मिनिस्टर से ही केवल नहीं है, इस का संबंध इरिगेशन और पावर मिनिस्टर हरयाना प्रदेश और पंजाब प्रदेश तथा केन्द्र के जो इस के संबंधी हैं उन से हैं क्योंकि जैसा कि मंत्री जी ने बताया कि भाखरा डैम में पानी नहीं