

**Hold-up of 21-UP Barauni Express**

\*1160. **Shri Baburao Patel:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 21-Up Barauni Express was held-up near Bandel on the Eastern Railway by a group of 60 people on the 17th June, 1967;

(b) if so, the value of the articles they looted from the passengers;

(c) the damage to the Railways on account of the looting;

(d) the reasons for these hold-ups of trains becoming frequent, particularly, on the Eastern Railway;

(e) the number of hold-ups on this particular railway since May 1967; and

(f) the steps taken to give protection to the passengers?

**The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha):** (a) There was no incident on 17th June, 1967 but on 18th June, 1967, 21-Up North Bihar Express was stopped soon after leaving Bandel at 41 K.Ms. near the level crossing gate by pulling alarm chain from different compartments by 50 to 60 miscreants who were armed with lathis and daggers.

(b) Passengers were robbed of their belongings. One passenger lost a wrist watch and Rs. 175 in cash while another Rs. 113 in cash. The conductor of a party of pilgrims had to pay Rs. 100 to the miscreants to save the pilgrims being looted individually.

(c) Nil.

(d) and (e). There were 37 cases of hold-ups from 1st May to 10th July, 1967. These hold-ups, cases of looting and robbery are due to deterioration in the general 'law and order' situation.

(f) All passenger carrying trains are being escorted by Government Railway Police assisted by Railway Protection Special Force personnel in 1358 (Ai) LSD—3.

the affected railway sections in West Bengal.

**Joint Plant Committee**

\*1161. **Shri P. Gopalan:**  
**Shri P. P. Esthose;**  
**Shri K. M. Abraham;**  
**Shri E. K. Nayamar;**  
**Shri K. Anirudhan;**  
**Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:**

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Market Development Fund, which has so long been operated upon by the Iron and Steel Controller for granting of concessions for the export of prime steels and for grant of rebate in the sale price of steel supplied to fabricators for the export of engineering goods fabricated from steels, has since been closed;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Joint Plant Committee has been authorised to include an element into the newly announced price of steels, which will go into a fund created by the Joint Plant Committee to enable them to subsidise the export of prime quality iron and steel materials or the steel fabricated goods; and

(c) if so, the reasons for taking off the work from Government authority and entrusting it to a non-official organisation?

**The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy):** (a) No, Sir. The Market Development Fund is still being operated upon for giving cash assistance for the export of pig iron and prime steel.

(b) There is no price control on steel. The fund created by the Joint Plant Committee is exclusively for reimbursement on account of supply of steel at international prices, which is used by the engineering industries for fabricating of goods exported by them. The Joint Plant Committee has set apart Rs. 5 per tonne on all domestic sales of steel and Rs. 3 per tonne on pig iron, out of the sale price, to finance this fund. The fund