

Shri Alagesan: It is under the consideration of the Transport Ministry.

Shri Barman: Is the report connected with the Ganga Barrage Scheme and if so, when will the consideration come to a final conclusion?

Shri Alagesan: Of course, the Ganga Barrage Scheme figures in this report.

Shri K. K. Basu: Is there any chance of this scheme being considered and fitted into the Planning Commission's Report?

Shri Alagesan: I do not think I can answer that question.

THEFT IN TRAINS

*1091. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of thefts committed in passenger trains as well as in goods trains on each Railway during the year 1951-52;

(b) the value of the properties stolen as well as recovered; and

(c) the number of persons prosecuted as well as convicted for these thefts?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The number of thefts committed in passenger and goods trains during 1951-52 was 1780 on the Central Railway, 4599 on the Eastern Railway, 1107 on the Northern Railway, 671 on the North Eastern Railway, 1701 on the Southern Railway and 561 on the Western Railway.

(b) The estimated value of property stolen on all these Railways during the same period was Rs. 58,90,305 and of that recovered Rs. 7,29,956.

(c) The number of persons prosecuted for these thefts was 2292, and of those convicted 1095.

Shri Dabhi: May I know what actual steps have Government taken to see that the number of thefts is reduced as far as possible?

Shri Alagesan: This question has been answered on previous occasions also. We have taken various steps like strengthening the Watch and Ward Department and taking the protection on the police. This is more a question of law and order and the State Governments concerned have to deal with it more than the railways. But the railways have even consulted the Home Ministry on this point and are taking concerted measures.

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether it is possible to give the number of thefts committed in each class of compartments in the passenger trains?

Shri Alagesan: I do not have the information at present.

Shrimati A. Kale: Are Government aware that a regular school is being maintained for training people in the art of thieving?

Shri Alagesan: I am afraid, not.

Shrimati A. Kale: Will Government find out where that school is located, so that it can be removed?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister said that they are not aware of it.

Shrimati A. Kale: But they can try and find it out. They have got the machinery, e.g. the C.I.D.

Shri Alagesan: The clue will be taken by the concerned Ministry.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: May I know whether any compensation has been paid for these thefts on the Central Railway?

Shri Alagesan: This question refers to thefts, and not to compensation. I have given the cost of the stolen property. If you want that information for a particular railway, I can give it. On the Central railway, the value of property stolen is Rs. 18,37,940.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: May I know how many of the persons prosecuted were railway employees?

Shri Alagesan: I do not have the information separately.

शेठ अचल सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय को मालूम है कि इन चोरियों में बाच एन्ड वाई और पुलिस कर्मचारियों का हाथ होता है ?

Shri Alagesan: I think he refers to the collaboration of the railway staff. There have been some such cases.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: May I know how many thefts were committed in first class compartments?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has already stated that he has not got the break-up.

Shri Barman: Is it a fact that in that part of the railway which is now known as the North Eastern Railway, the number of thefts has increased from what it was in the past, and if so, what are the reasons therefor?

Shri Alagesan: I have given the number of thefts on the North Eastern Railway. It is 1701. I do not have the comparative figures for the earlier years.

Shri M. D. Joshi: Apart from the steps taken by the Railway Ministry may I know what steps have been taken by the Home Ministry to avert these thefts?

Shri Alagesan: The Home Ministry convened a meeting at which various State Governments like West Bengal, Bihar etc. were represented and they decided upon certain measures. Those are being pursued with vigour.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that a large number of children are allowed to travel on the foot-boards of the trains, and later on these urchins steal away property belonging to the passengers, and if so, what steps do Government propose to take to stop this practice?

Shri Alagesan: It has been answered previously in this House. They are dealt with under the law.

Shri Jaipal Singh: In which State is there the biggest thieving?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it necessary that we should say that the State is responsible for the thieving?

Shri Jaipal Singh: I want to know which area—it may be one State or two States where the largest number of thefts may have been reported.

Shri Alagesan: I have given the figures railway-wise. These railways pass through different States, so that it is not possible to give the figures States-wise.

Lala Achint Ram: Was any injury caused to the person of any passengers in the course of these thefts?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If injury is caused it becomes robbery, not mere theft.

Shrimati Sushama Sen: May I know, Sir, if these thefts take place more in ladies compartments than in other compartments? May I also know what steps are Government taking to ensure the safety of ladies travelling?

Shri Alagesan: The safety devices provided are more in the ladies' compartments and better care is taken of these compartments.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know, Sir, whether the properties recovered are restored to the parties, or taken by the Government?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member, I know, is a lawyer. It is never the property of Government. It is returned to the party unless the party himself is a thief.

Shri B. S. Murthy: According to the figures given by the hon. Minister about 4,595 thefts were reported from the Eastern Railways—which is more than half the total number of thefts. May I know whether there is any special reason for the increase in the number of thefts in that area—may I know whether it is due to railway employees being involved in the cases?

Shri Alagesan: I cannot cite any special reason, Sir.

Shri K. K. Basu: May we know whether the incidence of these thefts has increased after the regrouping of the railways?

Shri Alagesan: There is no warrant for such presumption.

Shri Boovaraghasamy: May I know whether the number of thefts increased or decreased when it is compared to the previous year?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He said he has not got that information.

Shri Kelappan: Is the majority of these thefts committed by ostensible beggars?

Shri Alagesan: We have no such information.

Shri Sanganna: May I know whether the person or persons who are helpful in the detection of these cases rewarded?

Shri Alagesan: Unless the reward was a prior condition I don't think they are rewarded.

RAILWAY AUDIT REPORT, 1951

*1093. **Shri Dabhi:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Railway Audit Report, 1951, gives several instances of losses, nugatory expenditure, financial irregularities, etc.?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, how much total monetary loss has thereby been incurred by Government?

(c) What steps have Government taken against those who are responsible for these losses etc.?

(d) What steps have Government taken to see that such losses etc. do not occur in future?