

(b) whether instances of involvement of railway employees in these unlawful activities have come to notice of Government ; and

(c) steps taken by Government to check these malpractices ?

**THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL) :** (a) The amount of compensation paid by the Railway during 1984-85 was Rs. 24.12 crores as a result of loss/theft of complete packages/consignments and pilferage, and 'NIL' as a result of embezzlement.

(b) Yes, Sir. Some staff have been found responsible.

(c) Steps taken by Government include :—

- (i) wagons carrying valuable goods are escorted by RPF staff in vulnerable sections as far as possible.
- (ii) RPF patrol parties are deployed at vulnerable points.
- (iii) Periodical raids are organised by Crime Intelligence Branch at vulnerable yards and transshipment points.
- (iv) Close liaison is maintained with State Government authorities for prevention of crime.
- (v) Surprise checks by claims prevention and security organisations are jointly conducted.
- (vi) Intensive supervision of working of break-of-gauge transshipment points and repacking points.
- (vii) Panel patching of defective wagons.

#### **Closure of Taj Mahal on Sharad Purnima**

1579. **SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Tajmahal on the occasion of Sharad Purnima was closed soon after sunset ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that tourists were not allowed to see Tajmahal after the sunset ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) :** (a) and (b). Tajmahal was open till 7.30 P.M. even after Sun Set on Sharad Purnima and tourists were allowed to see it.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Decline of Passenger Traffic on Indian Airlines**

1580. **SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA :** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of passengers carried annually by the Indian Airlines has declined sharply during the past three years ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to remedy the situation ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### **Air India Probe into Stowaway Incident**

1581. **SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report appearing in the Times of India dated 22 August, 1985 under the heading 'AI' probe into stowaway incident ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;