

(b) The development of Railways is not undertaken on State-wise or Region-wise basis. Works are taken up on the basis of traffic and operational needs of the area.

News-item captioned '80 Train Robberies'

2292. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn towards a news-item appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated the 9th October, 1973 under the caption '80 train robberies'; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes.

(b) The incidence of crimes on the Railways has not shown an upward trend during the period January and June, 1973. However, during this period the incidence of murder, robbery and dacoity showed some increase on the Eastern Railway. The incidence of such crimes on the Northern and North-Eastern Railways has shown some decrease during this period. The State Governments concerned are taking adequate interest in tackling crimes on Railways. The following preventive measures are being taken to prevent such crimes on Railways:—

- (1) Important night passenger trains are being escorted by armed police.
- (2) Regular beat duties by Government Railway Police staff are arranged to keep surveillance over known criminals and bad characters.
- (3) Plain clothed Police-men are deployed to collect information and to watch the activities of criminals.
- (4) In the West Bengal area of the Eastern, South-Eastern and

North-east Frontier Railways, a system of haunting patrols has been introduced. Action is also under way to form resistance groups to tackle such crimes on Railways.

- (5) A working group consisting of senior officers of State/Central Government (including Railways) has been formed to thoroughly examine the position and to suggest measures for effectively tackling the problem of crimes on Railways. This group has unanimously agreed that there is an urgent need to augment the strength of Government Railway Police. The State Governments, however, expressed their inability to meet this additional expenditure and desired that the Central Government should bear the cost of expenditure on this augmentation by giving grants-in-aid. Accordingly a memorandum was submitted to the Finance Commission.

Proposal for Expansion of Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilizers

2293. SHRI A. K. KOTRASHETTI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) whether Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilizers in Karnatak have applied for expansion of their capacity;

(b) whether Government have agreed to their proposal for expansion; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to see that more Kannada-knowing persons are employed in this concern?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is the intention of Government to support such expansions, subject to availability of resources and other relevant factors.

(c) This is a matter which is within the purview of the company.