

requires Ministers not to permit their spouses and dependents to accept employment under a foreign government, in India or abroad, or in a foreign organisation (including commercial organisations) without prior approval of the Prime Minister.

[Translation]

Scheduled Tribes In FCI, Bhopal

1926. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes recruited to the post of AG III in the Zonal Office of the Food Corporation of India, Bhopal;

(b) whether these posts were vacant in the Zonal Office at Bhopal:

(c) if so, whether the said persons were transferred to other zones; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) Food Corporation of India does not have its Zonal Office at Bhopal. However, it has its Regional Office at Bhopal with administrative jurisdiction over the State of Madhya Pradesh. During the Special Recruitment Drive for SC & ST launched by the Corporation in Oct., 1996, 194 Assistants Grade-III (D) belonging to ST category were recruited by the Corporation in the State of Madhya Pradesh against the available 196 ST vacancies.

(c) and (d) As per the FCI (Staff) Regulations the unit for recruitment to the said post is the Region. However, in order to enhance the career opportunity for these employees, the unit of transfer is kept as Zone comprising States under its administrative control. Therefore, the persons recruited in Madhya Pradesh Region were transferred and posted within the Zone after obtaining their willingness at the time of recruitment.

[English]

Theft and Dacoity In Trains

1927. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
DR. V. SAROJA :
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to protect passengers lives and property during train journey, especially during night in all the long distance trains;

(b) the number of cases of theft and dacoities during train journey took place during the last six months; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) and (c) The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes in the trains is the responsibility of the Government Railway Police (GRP), which functions under the control of the respective State Government UT Administration. In order to ensure safety of passengers and their belongings during train journey, the Railway Administration has also taken the following steps to help the GRP in checking criminal activities:-

(i) The Railway Protection Force (RPF) officers are holding regular coordination meeting with their counterparts in the GRP and the Civil Police.

(ii) Sharing of Special Intelligence and Crime Intelligence between the RPF and the GRP is being done at all levels.

(iii) The Railways have introduced the Instant Action Group in superfast trains to prevent entry of unauthorised persons.

(iv) The RPF staff assists the GRP in escorting passenger trains during night.

(v) Joint strategies for dealing with anti-social elements operating in the Railways have been chalked out by the GRP and the RPF.

(b) According to available information, there were 61 cases of dacoity, 119 cases of robbery and 28 cases of burglary in trains during the period July'97 to December '97.

[Translation]

Mine Accident

1928. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mine accidents occurred in the country during the last three years;

(b) the number of casualties and injured labourers in these accidents and the loss of revenue incurred on this account;

(c) the total amount of compensation provided to the victim families of the deceased; and

(d) the measures proposed by the Government to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) The number of mine accidents with the number of casualties and injured