

*Statement*

Place	1967-68		1968-69		1969-70	
	No. of Benches	No. of appeals pending on 31-3-68	No. of Benches	No. of appeals pending on 31-3-69	No. of Benches	No. of appeals pending on 31-3-70
1. Bombay (Head-quarters)	4	15,916	4	15,262	4	11,733
2. Calcutta	3	14,781	4	16,348	5	18,732
3. Delhi	3	7,809	3	9,838	3	9,293
4. Madras	2	5,474	2	2,937	1	3,645
5. Allahabad	1	3,493	1	3,691	1	4,122
6. Hyderabad	1	3,826	1	4,477	1	4,248
7. Patna	1	4,204	1	5,576	1	7,164
8. Cochin	—	—	1	1,207	1	1,404
9. Ahmedabad	—	—	1	3,517	1	3,605
10. Bangalore	—	—	1	481	1	669
11. Indore	—	—	—	—	1	3,361
12. Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	1	2,725
13. Cuttack	—	—	—	—	1	171
14. Nagpur	—	—	—	—	1	3,799
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>55,503</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>63,334</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>74,671</b>

Correction of Answer to Unstarred to Question No. 355 dated 24-2-1970 re. Crimes on the Indian Railways

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA): As the Government of Gujarat have intimated revised figures of crimes committed in passenger trains/railway premises, the earlier reply given needs correction.

In the statement referred to the reply to parts (a) and (b) of the question, figures for Gujarat State against serial number 5 under column 'MURDERS' may be read as 4 and under column 'THEFTS' as 269.

Correction of Answer to Unstarred Question No. 1261 dated 3-3-1970 re. Incidents of Loot, Murders and Dacoities on the Western Railways

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA): As the Government of Gujarat have intimated revised figures of crimes committed in passenger trains/railway

premises, the earlier reply given needs correction and correct reply may be read as follows:

(a) and (b). The number of robbery, dacoity and murder cases reported from Passenger trains and Railway premises was as follows:

Year	Murder	Dacoity	Robbery
1967	10	1	28
1968	3	5	36
1969	28	6	32
1970	1	—	1

(Upto 15.2.70)

Correction of Answer to Unstarred Question No. 3911 dated 24-3-1970 re. Distribution of Billets to Re-rollers and Exporters

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT): In the Statement laid on the table of the House

in answer to para (c) and (d) of the Question No. 3911 on 24-3-70 below K. R. Steel Union Pvt. Ltd., West Bengal allocation of export quota to M/s. K. R. Steel Union Pvt., West Bengal had been indicated as "2,000 tonnes per month from February, 69 to July, 69, including 1,250 tonnes for wire rods." I would like to point out that it should read as "2,000 tonnes per month from February, 69 to July, 69 including 1,250 tonnes of heavier billets (125 mm) "

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**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER  
OF URGENT PUBLIC  
IMPORTANCE**

**Reported Misappropriation of Money  
at the London Branch of the  
Central Bank of India**

**SHRI SEZHIAN (Kumbakonam) :** I call the attention of the Minister of Finance to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

"Reported misappropriation of more than £1.2 million at the London Branch of the Central Bank of India and the action taken by the Government in this regard."

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C.  
SETHI) :** Sir, the following particulars have been ascertained from the Central Bank of India regarding the case of suspected fraud at their London Office.

Arising out of certain irregularities noticed in the working of the London Branch of the Central Bank of India the bank arranged for a special audit of the London Branch by deputing a special officer to London on 23rd September, 1969. Later in March 1970, the General Manager of the bank was sent to London to look into some of the irregularities in some accounts of the London office. The General Manager relieved the London Manager, Shri Sami J. Patel of his duties which were handed over to another officer Shri Khalifa. On 15th April, 1970, the London Office of Central Bank of India received a telex message from the Sloman Bank, Hamburg requesting confirmation from the bank regarding an irrevocable guarantee covering ten bills of

exchange for a total sum of D.M. 2,000,000 supposed to have been drawn by Montex Limited, London on C. Ramon & Co. Ltd., London. The London Office of the bank contacted Mr. C. M. Shah of Montex Limited who denied having drawn those bills. On 16th April, 1970, the London Office of the bank sent a telex to Sloman Bank denying having issued any such guarantee and requesting them to despatch to them photostat copies of documents and bills referred to by them and also to exercise caution. On the same day, the Sloman Bank informed the London office of the Central Bank of India that the ten bills of exchange with the bank's guarantee were presented to them for discount by Mr. Mario di Racca of M/s L. Behrens and Sohne, Hamburg, private bankers. The letter of guarantee bore the signature of Mr. S. J. Patel as Manager and Mr. Hanna as the Accountant. According to the Central Bank of India, Mr. Hanna was a Junior Clerk in the bank and was not authorised by the bank to execute any documents on behalf of the bank. Nor were any of these guarantees registered in the books of the bank. The bank has, therefore, surmised that the ten bills of exchange and the guarantee letter are forged documents. On the 17th April, 1970 the Auditor of the Bank, Mr. Mistry accompanied by Mr. Shah who was supposed to have drawn all the ten bills of exchange on behalf of Montex, called at the office of the Sloman Bank, Hamburg, where they were shown photostat copies of the letters signed by Mr. Patel confirming that the acceptors of the bills maintained an external account with the London Branch of the Central Bank of India, with the permission of the Bank of England which, however, according to the Central Bank of India was not correct. Mr. Patel is purported to have written a letter forwarding specimen signatures of the officers of the bank authorised to sign on its behalf. In this list of signatures, Mr. Hanna's name had not been included, but Mr. Patel is purported to have written another letter advising the foreign correspondents of the bank, of the appointment of Mr. Hanna as incharge of foreign business and is also alleged to have authenticated his signature. The photostats of the original letters of guarantee bear the date 26th March, 1969. It appears that these were re-issued on the 26th March, 1970.