

to the former Governor, Shri Homi J.H. Teleyarkhan, who is India's Ambassador to Italy since last year, has been posted to the same Mission as Second Secretary.

Thefts of Passengers' Property Including Pick-Pocketing on Railways

592. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether thefts of passengers' property and baggage, including pick-pocketing are on the increase and if so, reasons thereof;

(b) how many cases of such thefts have been recorded year-wise during last 3 years, indicating number of cases where property was restored to the passengers;

(c) what was the average time taken to restore goods to the passengers; and

(d) whether any compensation is paid by the Railways to the victims and if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) to (c). As the subject 'Public Order' and 'Police' are in the State List of the VIIth Schedule of the Constitution, it is the responsibility of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to enforce law relating to offences. No data in regard to thefts of passengers' property and baggage and pick-pocketing and other details thereof is compiled on all India basis. Therefore, there is no data available to show that such incidents are on the increase and about the number of cases of theft and restoration of property to the passengers.

(d) No compensation is paid to victim passengers for theft of their personal property and baggages.

Wasteland Project

593. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the wasteland project has been set too high and is unrealistic;

(b) whether the project is to be headed by a eco-sociologist of the Ford Foundation; and

(c) whether Government have plans to get expertise from countries such as Israel which has pioneered in this area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BIR SEN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir.

Refugee Resettlement Programme of West Bengal

594. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSHI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to review the total refugee rehabilitation programme of West Bengal immediately to consider the problems of housing agriculture and jobs; and

(b) if so, what are the objectives thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Wasteland Development Boards at Central and State Levels

595. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Wasteland Development Board has been constituted at the Central level;

(b) if so, whether such boards are proposed to be set up at the State level also; and

(c) if so, their proposed working and financial implications thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BIR SEN) : (a) The Government has decided to set up a National Wastelands Development Board.