

(c) if so, when this project is proposed to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Rajkot is already connected by BG with Porbander via Hapa.

(b) and (c). The proposal for conversion of Rajkot-Junagadh-Veraval MG line (185) into BG was sent to the Planning Commission for clearance. The Commission have advised its consideration in VIII Plan.

Over-bridge at Dhakuria Belghoria and Sodepur

2663. SHRI DEBI GHOSAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether people using the road crossing at Dhakuria, Belghoria and Sodepur railway stations under Sealdah division of Eastern Railway are facing difficulties because of non-completion of over-bridges/flyovers in these stations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). No, Sir. Alternative arrangements have been made for the diversion of the road traffic/pedestrian traffic through the nearby level crossings/foot overbridges at Belghoria and Sodepur where the works are in progress. Road overbridge at Dhakuria has already been commissioned to traffic.

Rules Governing Payment of Compensation to Accident Victims

2664. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state.

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item published in the Times of India (New Delhi) dated 8 July, 1989 under the caption 'absence of rules handicaps Railways';

(b) if so, Government's response to the news item especially to the mention that the Railways are handicapped in the absence of rules regarding payment of compensation to minors, unmarried women and unemployed persons, if they are victims of any train accident resulting in the inability of the Railways to pay compensation to the dependants of 13 persons who were among 106 persons killed in the accident involving Island Express at Quilon last year;

(c) if so, the exact position in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to overcome these lacunae?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Under the provisions of Clause 'd' of Sub-section 1 of Section 82C of the Indian Railways Act, 1890, compensation for claims arising out of death of passengers in train accidents, as defined in Section 82A of the Act, are to be paid to the dependants of the deceased as defined in Clause 'd' of Section 2 of the Workmen Compensation Act, 1923. Claims cases in respect of 17 deceased passengers were dismissed, as under the provision of the extant Act the claimants were not considered 'dependants' of the deceased. However, the Railways Act, 1989, which is yet to be notified, has defined the 'dependants' of the deceased vide Clause 'b' of Section 123 of the Act. This includes some near relatives of deceased passenger, such as wife, husband, son, daughter, parent in case of the deceased passenger being unmarried or a minor, a