

Tuticorin Express Accident

*1360. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who have applied for compensation arising out of the accident to Tuticorin Express on the 23rd November, 1956;

(b) how many have been paid compensation so far, together with the amount in each case; and

(c) the number of dead, disabled and injured railway employees in the said accident?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) 7 (upto 11-12-56).

(b) Nil.

(c) Dead	Injured
12	13

The number of persons disabled as a result of the accident could only be stated when claims on account of disability have been determined by the competent authority.

Shri Kamath: Have reports reached Government that all the dead in this disaster were not accounted for and, if so, what is the probable estimate of Government so far as the undiscovered dead are concerned?

Shri Alagesan: 149 dead bodies were found and it is surmised that it is not likely that there were any more bodies caught in the debris or otherwise. 3 persons, out of the injured died subsequently in the hospital bringing the total number to 152. I do not think there is any possibility of any more dead bodies that have been left undiscovered.

Shri Kamath: Yesterday they asked for a supplementary grant of Rs. 19 lakhs on account of Mahboobnagar and the Ariyalur accidents. Of this amount, how much amount is going to be earmarked or is earmarked for compensation in respect of the Ariyalur disaster?

Shri Alagesan: It is only on an estimate; and, these amounts have been placed in the hands of the Claims Commissioner. It is for the Claims Commissioner to determine the various claims and give his award. As soon as he gives the award, the whole amount will be known. I am not able to give the definite amount that will be determined by the Claims Commissioner.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: Do the figures which the Deputy Minister was kind enough to give include the loss of life of women in the third class women's compartment which was supposed to be excluded?

Shri Alagesan. It is not correct. The figure includes all.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Subsidence of Railway Line Between Mugma and Futka Stations

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S.N.Q.No.12. { **Shri Kajrolkar:**
 { **Shri Raghunath Singh:**
 Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the railway line between Mugma and Futka stations on the border of Bihar recently subsided,

(b) whether it is a fact that due to timely warning by certain local villagers a serious railway accident was averted on the line,

(c) if so, the details of the occurrence and the names of those who gave the warning; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to recognise publicly the great service rendered by the persons concerned?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (d). A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 45].

Shri Kajrolkar: Have Government any scheme under consideration to carry out a thorough investigation of all the railway lines, and particularly those passing over the mining areas?

Shri Alagesan: This was a case which has come to our notice and it was fortunate that it has been averted by a woman and 3 other persons. At present, we have no such idea, but this can be looked into.

Shri Kajrolkar: In the statement they have said that they awarded Rs. 300/- and Rs. 200/-. Do Government consider that the amount given is a fit reward for the service rendered?

Shri Alagesan: Yes; the Railway thought that it was so and these awards were given.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether Government is in a position to clarify the reports that this subsidence of the soil is due to the level of the sub-soil water having risen up and do the Government propose to conduct any survey all over the country about the rising of sub-soil water?

Shri Alagesan: It is not due to any sub-soil water rising up. It was due to the existence of an old mine that the subsidence occurred.

Shri Raghunath Singh: It appears from the statement that there was a hole in the track and when the track was sink-