

Deaths due to Train Accident

440. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI KRISHNA PRATAP SINGH:
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
SHRI S. M. KRISHNA:
SHRI BHEEKHABHAI:
SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents that took place since January, 1980 indicating the number of persons killed/injured in these accidents, zone-wise and month-wise;

(b) the amount of compensation, if any, paid to the families of the victims; and

(c) the reasons for these accidents and the steps taken to avoid them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN):

(a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-1256/80*].

(b) An *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 4.60 lakhs has been made to the injured and next of kin of those who lost their lives in these accidents on all Indian Railways (except N. F. Railway for which the information is not available). The Zonal Railways (except N. F. Railway) have also advised that no amount of compensation has so far been awarded by the Claims Commissioners to victims of the accidents. The claim can be preferred within a period of three months from the date of the accident to the Claims Commissioners, who may, on good cause shown, allow any claim-application to be made at any time within one year from the date of occurrence. As full-fledged court proceedings take place before a verdict is given by the court, the process is time-consuming. In the recent three major

train accidents, proposals from the concerned State Governments regarding nomination of ad hoc Claims Commissioners are awaited.

A sum of Rs. 36,000 has been paid by Northern and Western Railways to the Railway employees under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

(c) The causes of these accidents are as under:

Failure of railway staff	36.1
Failure of persons other than railway staff	129
Sabotage	6
Failure of equipment	129
Accidental	78
Cause could not be established	14
Cause not yet finalised	88

	808

Since failure of railway staff is the largest single factor responsible for accidents, Safety Organisations on the Railways have been engaged in a relentless campaign to create greater safety consciousness amongst the staff connected with running of trains and to ensure that staff do not violate rules or indulge in short-cut methods that may lead to accidents.

Examination of trains and spot checks in carriage and wagon depots have been intensified and greater care is being paid to the proper maintenance of track. In order to reduce dependence on the human element, sophisticated aids like ultrasonic flaw detectors for wheels, axles and rails, axle counters, track circuiting etc. are being introduced progressively.

High level task teams have also been set up on the Railways to review the position of accidents and take immediate remedial measures.