

in a train accident that took place between Jhijnhak and Ambiapur Stations on the night of 31st October, 1980 ;

(b) If so, the number of persons killed/injured as a result thereof ;

(c) the result of the inquiry made into the accident ; and

(d) the amount of compensation, if any, paid by Government to the families of the victims of the accident ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b). In the accident which occurred between Jhijnhak and Ambiapur stations on 30-10-80, 35 persons were killed, 17 sustained grievous injuries and 24 simple injuries.

(c) The Commissioner of Railway Safety, Lucknow, who is an independent authority functioning under the administrative control of the Ministry of Tourism & Civil Aviation has held a statutory inquiry into this accident. According to his provisional findings, the initial derailment of a wagon of 452 Down Goods train was due to failure of mechanical equipment, and subsequent collision of 163 Up Sangam Express with the derailed wagon was due to failure of railway staff.

(d) No compensation has been paid to victims of train accident that took place between Jhijnhak and Ambiapur stations on 30-10-1980. The compensation will be decided by the Claims Commissioner to whom claims applications can be preferred within a period of three months from the date of occurrence of the accident and who may, on good cause shown, also allow any claim application to be made at any time within one year from the date of occurrence. However, a sum of Rs. 68,600/- has already been paid as *ex-gratia* amount to the victims of this accident.

### Halting Station at Khurigachi

1433. PROF. RUPCHAND PAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to have a halting Station at Khurigachi

between Bhadreswar and Baidyabati in the Bandel-Howrah section of Eastern Railway ; and

(b) if so, by what time the above project will be completed ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

### Idle Wagons and Coaches.

1434. SHRI A. F. PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number and percentage of wagons and coaches lying idle, zone-wise, due to defects want of repairs and other causes respectively as on 31st October, 1980 ; and

(b) what measures have been taken during the last six months to put them on rails ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) A statement is attached.

(b) The percentage of ineffective wagons and coaches is above the prescribed targets because of failure of trade and Durgapur Steel Plant to supply spare components and tyres, wheels and axles and due to poor electric power supply. Efforts are being made to import wheels, tyres, axles and undertake emergency purchases of other spares to release the stock held up at present. With improved power supply the out turn from workshops and sicklines has also shown considerable improvement.