

(c) what steps are taken to redress the grievances regarding railway accidents ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN):

(a) Presumably the reference is to the Joint Press Statement of 24th July, 1981 issued by certain organisations of railway staff.

(b) In the Press Statement, it has been alleged that defective planning, utilisation of over-aged assets, non-availability of materials and spare parts and violation of safety rules is responsible for the rise in accidents. Public enquiry into the causes of at least major accidents, if not all accidents, has also been demanded.

(c) While the various points made out in the Press Statement are being looked into, Safety Organisations on the railways are carrying out an intensive campaign to create greater safety consciousness amongst the staff connected with running of trains and to ensure that the staff do not violate rules or indulge in short-cut methods that may lead to accidents. Breathlyser test has also been introduced to ensure that the staff do not come on duty under the influence of liquor. Rolling stock which requires greater attention is being segregated from the rest so that concerted attention could be paid to it at frequent intervals. Greater care is being paid for proper maintenance of track.

A special safety team has been constituted in the Railway Board to carry out field checks. The trend of accidents is being constantly reviewed by the Railway Board and remedial measures are being taken.

General Managers have programmed to make a special safety inspections of all the trunk routes by November, 1981.

Enquiries are held into all accidents at appropriate level depending upon their nature. Since all the major accidents have been inquired into by the Commissioners of Railway Safety, who are a statutory authority functioning independently under the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation, no further enquiry into these accidents is considered necessary.

Badbil Railway Station

2614. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal for the construction of a platform at Badbil Railway Station in the District of Keonjhar of Orissa ;

(b) if so, when this proposal is going to be implemented ; and

(c) the progress made, so far, in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c): Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to Barabil Railway Station situated on Tatanagar-Rajkharswan-Barajamda—Barabil section of South Eastern Railway. It is a small station, where only one pair of trains stop. For the present level of passenger traffic offering at this station, a rail level platform already stands provided and this is considered adequate.

Survey by All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health Regarding Food Sample and Residues of Pesticides

2615. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by the All India Institute

of Hygiene and Public Health regarding a food sample;

(b) if so, whether the survey report residues of pesticides like DDT were found in majority of the cases; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps contemplated by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) Yes.

(b) 390 samples of various foods from different markets of Calcutta and ten samples of water were analysed for the detection of DDT, Lindane and Malathion. 30 percent of the animal products, 26.3 percent of cereals and pulses and 24 percent of the vegetable samples showed presence of pesticides. But these were usually below the tolerance limits prescribed under PFA Act.

The pesticide residue limits for different pesticides in various foods has been prescribed under the provisions of the PFA Act.

(c) The Government of India in collaboration with FAO is currently engaged in a countrywide survey to assess the contamination of various foods with pesticides. The survey is likely to be completed by the end of 1981. In the study ten national institutes are engaged for analyses of the samples etc. Training programmes for the analysts who will carry out the analyses has recently been completed so that uniform results could be obtained.

Ratio of Officers to Staff in RDSO

2616. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the strength of gazetted officers in RDSO in 1965 and what is the strength today, rank-wise;

(b) what was the strength of staff in 1965 and what is on date;

(c) is there any relationship between the strength of staff and the strength of officers of various grades;

(d) if officers are meant for supervision and administration of the staff, why such an abnormal increase in the strength of officers while the strength of staff remained more or less the same;

(e) what is the total amount of TA earned by officers of RDSO and what is the amount of TA earned by the present DG during the last six months, month-wise; and

(f) has it ever been considered that the organisation has become top-heavy?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (f). The strength of Gazetted Officers (Group A & B) in Research Designs and Standards Organisation as on 31-12-1965 and on 1-7-1981 is as under:

As on 31-12-1965		As on 1-7-1981	
Sanctioned strength	Working strength	Sanctioned strength	Working strength
185	146	366	333

(Rankwise details given in the statements-I & II)

The strength of non-gazetted staff (Group C and D) in R. D. S. O. as on 31-12-1965 and 1-7-1981 is as under:

As on 31-12-1965		As on 1-7-1981	
Sanctioned strength	Working strength	Sanctioned strength	Working strength
2167	1651	4017	3568
(Regular —3237	(Regular —2918		
De-casualised—780)	De-casualised — 650)		