

(d) whether it is a fact that the special trains were arranged for the day in order to bring the people to a public meeting of a particular political party; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (e) 5 pairs of special trains were run to and from Howrah—one each from Purulia, Gidni, Dantan, Kharagpur and Gosbeta on South Eastern Railway on 16th Feb. 1982 on request from West Bengal Youth Congress (I) on payment of full tariff rates.

A sum of Rs. 77430/- was collected for the one pair of trains between Purulia and Howrah and Rs. 61708/- was collected for each of the other 4 pairs of trains.

Compensation paid to Heirs of victims of Train Accidents

5258. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is statutory provision to pay compensation to the heirs of the fatal victims of the railway accident; and

(b) if so, what are the details of casualties and of compensation paid,

with amount in each case, giving reasons for curtailed payment for the year 1978-79, 1979-80 and 1980-81 respectively?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). Yes. The railways pay compensation to the victims of train accidents under provisions of Indian Railway Act, 1890 and the Railway Accidents (Compensation) Rules, 1950 as amended from time to time. The maximum amount of compensation payable under the provisions of Indian Railways Act, 1890 is Rs. 50,000/-. The claims arising out of minor train accidents are decided by ex-officio Claims Commissioners nominated by State Governments and those arising out of major train accidents, by ad hoc Claims Commissioners appointed by the Central Government. As a result, there are a number of claims cases pending final settlement. The yearwise details of amount of compensation paid is thus not necessarily related to the number of casualties during a particular year. The data relating to the amount of compensation paid in each case is so voluminous that it will not be commensurate with the efforts made to compile it. The number of casualties together with the total amount of compensation paid during the 3 year's 1978-79, 79-80 and 80-81 is tabulated below:—

Year	No. of Killed	passenger Inured	Compensa- tion paid to victims of accidents (In Rs.)
1978-79	74	390	60.66
1979-80	113	473	17.88
1980-81	118	518	45.98