

trains were running eighteen to twenty four hours late in October, 1996 due to the incidents of accidents

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to avoid rail accidents in future and the relief provided by the Government to the victims of these accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Only Delhi bound trains from South ran abnormally late due to breaches in South Central Railway

(c) A Statement is attached

STATEMENT

(c) Some of the steps taken to prevent train accidents are as under :-

1. The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and important main lines.
2. Signalling circuitry is being changed to prevent home signal from being lowered till the starter and the advance starter lowered for the previous train, have been put back to 'ON' position.
3. Auxiliary warning system for giving advance warning about signals at danger to driver of the running train has already been commissioned on Bombay sub-urban sections.
4. Upgradation of track structure has been done by using heavier rails and concrete sleepers.
5. The track is maintained by Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines. Track is also now being laid with track renewal trains and portal cranes.
6. For monitoring of the track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being progressively used.
7. Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised.
8. To prevent cases of cold breakage of axle, ROH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for timely detection of cases of flaws developing in the axles.
9. Training facilities for drivers, guards and other staff connected with train operation have been modernised. Drivers are being trained on simulators.
10. Performance of the staff is constantly monitored. The staff whose knowledge is

found deficient are counselled and are sent for refresher training.

Soon after the accident, ex-gratia relief is given by railway administration at the rate of Rs 15,000/- to the next of the kin of the dead, Rs.5,000/- in case of grievous injury and Rs.500/- in the case of simple injury in order to meet their immediate expense.

Later on Compensation amounting to Rs.2 lakhs is also paid to the dependents of those passengers who are dead or are permanently disabled in train accidents. For other injuries, the amount varies from Rs.16,000/- to Rs.1,80,000/-.

Besides, prompt medical services are provided to the victims.

[English]

Expansion of Telecom in North-East

342. SHRI BADAI CHOUDHURY
SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide/allot more STD/ISD/PCOs in different parts of North-East States.

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, Distt-wise, and

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Details of proposed STD/ISD PCOs during 1996-97 are as under :-

S No	Name of State/Telecom Distt	No of PCOs
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	51
2.	Manipur	85
3.	Meghalaya	81
4.	Mizoram	60
5.	Nagaland	65
6.	Tripura	68
7.	Guwahati	300
8.	Dibrugarh	50
9.	Jorhat	40
10.	Silchar	60
11.	Tezpur	20
12.	Naogaon	20
13.	Bongaigaon	30

(c) Exchange capacities are being expanded and STD connectivity to a number of exchanges are being augmented.