

Amount paid to American Express engaged in Oil Drilling in Sagar Samrat

2180. SHRI BHOGENDR A JHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what amount, till now, Government have paid to the American experts engaged in Sagar Samrat working in Bombay High;

(b) whether Government have made any assessment as to which country is least expensive in oil exploration amongst the socialist countries and sterling countries; and

(c) if so, the broad outlines of Government's findings?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI):

(a) to (c): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Railway Accidents during the Last One Year

2181. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway accidents occurred during the last one year;

(b) the loss suffered by Government as a result of these accidents;

(c) total number of persons killed and injured; and

(d) compensation given as a result thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) During the period 1st November, 1973 to 31st October, 1974, there were 850 train accidents on the Indian Government Railways in the categories of collisions, derailments, level crossing accidents and fires in trains.

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(b) The cost of damage to railway property involved in these accidents was estimated at approximately Rs. 2,21,33,978/-.

(c) In these accidents 269 persons were killed and 843 injured.

(d) No compensation has so far been paid to the dependents of the deceased and injured persons involved in these accidents under Indian Railways Act. The amount of compensation so far paid or sanctioned under the Workmen's Compensation Act to the railway employees involved in the accidents is Rs. 1,33,805.00

Difficulties Faced by Small Scale Plastic Manufacturers in Punjab

2182. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether small scale plastic manufacturers in Punjab are facing difficulties due to non-availability of raw materials;

(b) if so, salient features thereof; and

(c) steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) to (c). The plastic processing industry which is largely in the small scale sector is facing difficulties in procurement of plastic resins, throughout the country. This is due to the fact that the indigenous production has not kept pace with the demand. There is no price and distribution control on thermoplastic raw materials.

Efforts are being made to increase indigenous production and make imports to the extent possible.