

(a) whether the Gaya Airport has not been functioning for some time past.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be made functional?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) (a) to (c) Gaya airport is an operational airport. The airport Authority of India (AAI) had, on the occasion of Buddha Mahotsav, renovated the infrastructural facilities at the Gaya Airport. However, since no airline has shown any interest in operating the scheduled flights to Gaya airport, AAI, at present, has no plans to further develop this airport

[English]

Appointment on Compassionate Ground

3159 SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA .

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of railway employees died in harness during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the number of dependents of deceased appointed on compassionate ground during each of the last three years zone-division-wise; and

(c) the time by which the remaining cases are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Instructions have been issued and reiterated from time to time to make all out efforts to provide compassionate appointments to the eligible candidates as early as possible within the guidelines laid down for the purpose. It is however, difficult to fix any time limit for the appointment on compassionate grounds as there are many factors not attributable to the Railway administration which may cause delays.

[Translation]

Railway Property Damaged by Rock Sliding

3160. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state .

(a) whether power engine and several bogies of 2724 A.P. Express bound for Hyderabad from New Delhi were damaged due to heavy rock sliding and excessive

rains blocking the railway track in Satpura range of hills near Dharakhoh Station at Ghat region of Bailul-Ghodadongri section;

(b) if so, the extent of railway property damaged; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir. However, the landslide had occurred at Km.834/21-24 due to heavy rains but the train was stopped at Km.833/9 between Dharakhoh and Maramjhiri and no damage was caused to the power or bogies of the train.

(b) Due to heavy rains from 13.9.1998 to 15.9.1998 land slide, erosion and wash-outs of formation took place at several locations in Itarsi-Amla section is as under :

- i. Landslides at 11 locations-approx quantity-1994 Cu.Metres.
- ii Erosion/Wash-out of Bank formation-at 10 locations-approx. quantity-1670 Cu.Metres.

(c) Patrolling of Railway track is conducted during full monsoon period and it is further intensified on receipt of forecast of heavy rainfall or cloudburst etc. from Meteorological Department. Stationary watchmen are also deployed at vulnerable locations to stop the trains in case of occurrence of any land-slides etc. affecting railway track.

[English]

Fifth pay Commission Report

3161. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the CPWD Engineers Association have raised their objection over the implementation of Fifth pay Commission Report;

(b) if so, the details thereof and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) The CPWD Engineers' Association has objected to the grant of two pay scales of Rs. 6500-10500 and 7500-12000 for Assistant Engineers as recommended by the Fifth pay Commission on the ground that a single pay scale of Rs 7500-12000 has been