

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1886
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2001
KALAHANDI TRAIN TRAGEDY
A.K. PREMAJAM

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Chief Railway Safety Commissioner who enquired into the Kalahandi train tragedy has submitted the report;
- (b) if so, the details of findings thereof;
- (c) whether the injured and the relatives of those killed in the Kalahandi train tragedy have received compensation from the Railway authorities;
- (d) if not, the reasons for the delay; and
- (e) whether the Government will examine the matter and direct the authorities to grant compensation in a time bound manner?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL)

(a) to (e) : A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1886 BY PROFA.K.PREMAJAM TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 29.11.2001 REGARDING KALAHANDI TRAIN TRAGEDY

(a) & (b): No, Sir. Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety has not yet submitted his Final Report on Kadalundi train accident. However, he has submitted his Preliminary Report and he has classified the accident under the category "Failure of Equipment – Railway Bridge".

(c) to (e): To take care of the immediate needs of the victims of Kadalundi train accident, enhanced ex-gratia has been paid immediately after the accident as under :-

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|-----|----------------------------|---|-------------------|
| (1) | In case of death | : | Rs. One lakh each |
| (2) | In case of grievous injury | : | Rs.25,000 each |
| (3) | In case of simple injury | : | Rs.5,000 each |

Compensation for train accident is decided by Railway Claims Tribunal. So far 69 claims applications have been filed in Railway Claims Tribunal, Ernakulam. One case has settled so far. The Chairman, Railway Claims Tribunal has been requested to expedite settlement of claims cases pertaining to this accident.

The following steps have also been taken to expedite settlement of claims :-

- i) Formed Special Assistance Cell at RCT/Ernakulam.
- ii) Application Forms for claiming compensation have been distributed to the victims and their families.
- iii) Free Legal Aid has been arranged with the co-ordination of the Government of Kerala.
- iv) Notification regarding compensation claims has been published in all leading local and National News papers (both vernacular and English)
- v) Web-site had been created and procedure for compensation claims had been put up on site (www.southernrailway.org.com).
- vi) All claimants who are inquiring over phone or in writing are being given all assistance by way of information, providing claims forms

and guidance in filling up the forms.