

(b) the quantum of assistance given to the families of the deceased?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The number of Army personnel killed by the insurgents during the last ten months from April 1998 to January 1999 is 177. Of this, 151 were killed in J&K and 26 in the North East (Assam-11, Nagaland-5, Manipur & Tripura-10).

2. The widows and the family members of Armed Forces personnel killed in war, war-like operations, counter insurgency operations, in encounters/incidents involving armed hostilities, etc. are entitled to the following benefits at present:—

- (i) Liberalised Special Family Pension equal to the last pay drawn by the deceased.
- (ii) Death-cum-retirement Gratuity varying from two months pay to maximum of Rs. 3.5 lakhs.
- (iii) Family Gratuity ranging from Rs. 450 to 1600 for Junior Commissioned Officers (JCO) and Other Ranks (OR) and Rs. 2000 to Rs. 16000 for the officers, depending upon rank.
- (iv) Ex-gratia payments ranging from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 7.50 lakhs.
- (v) Army Group Insurance of Rs. 8 lakh in case of officers and Rs. 3.75 lakhs in case of JCOs/ORs.

3. Apart from the aforesaid pensionary benefits, the widows of the Defence personnel are entitled to a number of facilities such as medical treatment from military hospitals, canteen facilities, educational concessions to the wards, rail/air travel concession etc.

4. The State Governments and the Union Territories Administrations also undertake various welfare schemes for the widows and families of the deceased Armed Forces personnel.

#### Gauge Conversion

1321. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have ever undertaken any survey for conversion of New Jalpaiguri-New Bongaigaon and Bankura-Damodar railway lines into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Both the projects have already been sanctioned in the budget at following anticipated cost:

- (i) New Jalpaiguri-New Bongaigaon conversion - Rs. 535.88 crores.
- (ii) Bankura-Damodar railway conversion - Rs. 100 crores.

All clearances have been received for both the projects and the work is being started on both of them.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Wages Settlement

1322. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:  
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the new guidelines issued to the public sector undertakings by the Department of Public Enterprises that wage settlement should now be for a period of 10 years instead of the current practice of five years;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines issued in this regard;

(c) whether the major Central trade unions have opposed these new guidelines; and

(d) if so, the details and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Subject to final approval of the Government, the new guidelines issued on the policy to be adopted for the Sixth Round of Wage negotiations in Public Sector Enterprises states that the pay package and perquisites for officers and non-unionised