

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Accident of 8 Down Toofan Express

[English]

*25. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the accident caused to 8 Down Toofan Express near Mughalsarai on November 1, 1989;

(b) whether any report has been submitted about the reasons for the accident;

(c) the number of persons killed and injured in the accident; and

(d) the amount of compensation paid to the kith and kin of the persons killed and to the persons injured?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) On 1.11.89 while No. 3008 Dn. Udyan Abha Toofan Express was passing through Sakaldiha station of Eastern Railway, its engine and 10 coaches derailed. Of the 10 derailed coaches 8 capsized.

(b) The accident is being inquired into by the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety.

(c) In this accident, 50 persons lost their lives while 66 persons sustained injuries including 43 grievous.

(d) Claims for compensation are to be preferred to and decided by the Railway Claims Tribunal. However, an amount of Rs. 5,57,250/- has been paid as ex-gratia by the Railway Administration.

Westland Helicopters

*26. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Westland WL-30 helicopters stationed at each place in the country;

(b) how many of them at each place were grounded as on 30 June, 1989 for want of spares and other reasons and how many were under active operation;

(c) the period of each aircraft (in days) during which it remained grounded since it landed in India;

(d) the estimated overall total loss incurred by the Pawan Hans and by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission, separately, as a result thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to ensure uninterrupted supply of spares for proper maintenance of the fleet?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Between 25.9.86 and 11.3.88, 21 Westland 30 helicopters joined the fleet of Pawan Hans Limited. One helicopter was lost in an accident on 14.7.88 at Sanjichhat near Jammu and the second was lost near Kohima on 7.2.89 due to an accident. Of the 19 Westland-30 Helicopters left in the fleet of Pawan Hans, 8 have been stationed at Bombay, 5 at Delhi and one each at Porbandar, Aizwal, Vijaywada, Shillong, Nazira and Agartala.

(b) On 30th June, 1989, 6 Westland-30 Helicopters were grounded for want of spares and 4 were grounded for scheduled inspections. The remaining nine helicopters were operational.

(c) The details of the days helicopters remained grounded from the date of induction of each helicopter upto 20.12.89 are as under:—