

ourselves, we found our talks with the Pakistani leaders, which were held in a cordial and frank atmosphere, useful.

(b) and (c). I went to Pakistan with a clear message that the Government of India sincerely wanted to build a relationship of trust, confidence and friendship between the two countries on the basis of sovereign equality. However, some subsequent developments particularly the introduction of a new level of weapons sophistication in this region by Pakistan would tend to detract from this process. Despite this, the Government of India feel that this effort is worth continuing.

(d) No, Sir.

wt

Review of Railway Safety Measures

*72. SHRI R. R. BHOLE:

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at a recent meeting called by the Railway Board to review the safety measures on the railways, certain General Managers expressed displeasure about the State of maintenance of wagons and carriages, especially their axles and roller bearings;

(b) whether their displeasure is based on the fact that neither the staff is adequately trained nor given necessary tools to check the bearing boxes; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to remedy the situation and take action against the officers responsible for such negligence on their part to maintain wagons, carriages, axles and roller bearings properly?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI KEDAR PANDEY): (a) and (b). No. Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Samastipur Baumankhi Train Accident

*73. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

SHRI SUDHIR KUMAR GIRI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 416 DN. Samastipur-Banmankhi passenger train jumped into the river on 6th June, 1981;

(b) if so, the number of persons killed and the number of bodies recovered;

(c) total loss to Railways and amount of compensation paid to the deceased and injured; and

(d) whether any inquiry has been instituted, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHAREEF): (a) and (b). Seven rear-most coaches of 416 Down Passenger fell into the river Bagmati on 6-6-1981, resulting in 270 known deaths—268 bodies were recovered from the river and 2 persons died in the hospital.

(c) The cost of damage to railway property involved in the accident has been estimated at approximately Rs. 6,12,481/-.

An ex-gratia payment of Rs. 1,61,250/- has been made to the next of kin of those killed and to the injured persons. Compensation under the Railway Accidents (Compensation) Rules, 1950 will be paid as awarded by the Ad-hoc Claims Commissioner.

(d) The Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety, Lucknow has held an inquiry into this accident. He has submitted his preliminary report in which he has given the following Provisional Findings:

"Having carefully considered the evidence available at this stage, I have come to the conclusion that