

the People Act 1950, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Election Commission of India Notification S. O. No. 210 (E) dated the 7th April, 1979 [Placed in Library See No. LT-4519/79]

**PRESENTATION OF PETITION
SIGNED BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY,
ALL INDIA STATE (BANK
OFFICERS' FEDERATION, MADRAS
AND OTHERS**

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Karnataka): Sir, I beg to present a petition signed by the General Secretary, All India State Bank Officers' Federation, Madras and 1210 other employees of the State Bank of India working in the State of Karnataka praying for the establishment of a Local Head Office of the State Bank of India at Bangalore.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Collision between 3 Up Howrah-Madras Mail and K 121 Local Train at Chengail Station of South Eastern Railway on the 18th May, 1979.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): Sir, with deep regret, I have to apprise the House of an accident that took place on 18-5-1979. At about 20.53 hours on that day, while 3 Up Howrah-Madras Mail was waiting outside the Home signal of Chengail station on Howrah-Kharagpur section on Kharagpur Division of South Eastern Railway, K 121 Up Howrah-Kharagpur EMU local train dashed into its rear. Consequently, 2 coaches of 3 Up Mail and 1 coach of the local train derailed. As a result of the accident, 13 persons died including the Motorman of the EMU local train, and another 38 were injured.

The accident site is situated on the triple line electrified section provided with track circuiting throughout and cdfloor light automatic signalling. In accordance with extant safety instruc-

tionst tooth the rearmost coaches of 3 Up Mail were steel bodied anti-teles-copic. It has also been reported that the side lights and tail lamp of 3 Up Mail, which are electrically operated, were lit at the time of accident.

Immediately on receipt of information, medical vans were rushed from Santragachi and Kharagpur. The General Manager, Chief Medical Officer and other senior officers of the railway proceeded to the site by road to supervise relief and rescue operations. Civil and Police authorities also attended the site of accident. The injured persons were removed expeditiously by medical vans as well as road ambulances to the Uluberia Government Hospital, Uluberia E.S.I Hospital, Ludlow Jute Mill Hospital, Garden Reach Railway Hospital, Kharagpur Railway Hospital and Howrah General Hospital.

Ex-gratia relief to the next of kin of the dead and to the injured was arranged. This will be in addition to a compensation upto a maximum limit of Rs. 50,000, per head payable under the extant rules.

Member Traffic, Railway Board, who was at Bombay flew to Calcutta on 19th Morning. My colleague, Minister of State for Railways also rushed to Calcutta by air on the morning of 19th May to ensure that all possible relief and medical attention is given. He went to the site of accident and visited the injured persons in various hospitals.

The Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety, who had also visited the site immediately after the accident, is holding the statutory inquiry into this accident today.

I am sure the House will join me in conveying our heartfelt sympathies to the members of the bereaved families.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE (West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very serious accident, as has already been stated