

the period November 1978 to January 1979.

(b) The punctuality performance was affected mainly due to alarm chain pulling and interference by unsocial elements and other miscellaneous factors. As a result of special drives and spot checks, the performance has improved in February 1979.

Employees Provident Fund Organisation Office

380. SHRI SYED AHMAD
HASHMI: SHRI N. K. P.
SALVE:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reported harassment and distress caused to employees by the red tape and malfunctioning of the employees provident fund organisation; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken or are being taken to streamline the working of the Organisation to eliminate the hardship of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KRIPAL SINHA): (a) and (b) A recent Press Report on the subject has come to the notice of Government and the matter is being looked into.

Derailement of Kollayam-bound passenger train at Perinad

381. SHRI SWAMI DINESH
CHANDRA:
SHRI SYED AHMAD
HASHMI: SHRI N.
K. P. SALVE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Kottayam-bound passenger train from Quilon in Kerala went off the rails and overturned at Perinad on the 2nd February, 1979;

(b) if so, what is the cause of the derailment; and

(c) what is the number of persons killed/injured as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Train No. 380 Up Quilon--Kottayam Passenger derailed between Quilon and Perinad stations on 2-2-1979.

(b) The cause of the accident is under investigation by the Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety who is an independent statutory authority functioning under the administrative control of the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation.

(c) In this accident, 2 persons were killed, 8 sustained grievous injuries and 6 simple injuries.

Visit to China by the Minister of External Affairs

382. SHRI SWAMI DINESH
CHANDRA: SHRI SYED
AHMED HASHMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he visited China in February this year;

(b) what are the details of the issues which were discussed with the authorities of the Government of China during the said visit; and

(c) what is the outcome thereof and how far the border issue between the two countries was settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) to (c) At the invitation of his Chinese counterpart Huang Hua, Minister for External Affairs visited China from February 12—18, 1979. A separate statement on the visit has been made, by the External Affairs Minister to the House.