

(b) A single crude price system was restored with effect from July 1, 1977 with the decision of Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates (UAE) to raise crude oil prices by 5 per cent and the other OPEC Member States deciding to forego the application of the additional 5 per cent increase in the price of oil as from July 1, 1977. A part from this price increase, the oil exporting countries have not announced any further increase in the price of crude oil recently.

Money power in elections

539. SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state what steps Government propose to take to prevent money power playing any role in the elections to some state Assemblies which will become due early next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI NARSINGH YADAV): Various proposals for the reform of the election law with a view to ensuring free and fair elections, and the measures that may be taken to make elections less expensive, are generally under consideration.

Railway Accidents

540. SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the places where railway accidents have taken place so far during the current financial year;

(b) the loss sustained by the Railways as a result of damage to railway property in these accidents; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to raise the quantum of compensation payable to the next of the kin of those killed and to those who are injured in train accidents; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) to (c) A Statement is enclosed.

Statement

(a) During the current financial year i.e. April to October, 1977, there were 515 train accidents on the Indian Government Railways in the categories of collisions, derailments, level crossing accidents and fires in trains. The number of accidents which occurred on different zonal railways is given below:—

Railway	No. of train accidents
Central	55
Eastern	31
Northern	48
North Eastern	50
Northeast Frontier	51
Southern	55
South Central	48
South Eastern	81
Western	96
TOTAL	515

(b) The cost of damage to railway property involved in these accidents has been estimated at approximately Rs. 2,26,09,000.

(c) It is not proposed to raise the quantum of compensation.

Persons punished for Railway Accidents

541. SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the number of persons found responsible for the occurrence of railway accidents who were awarded punishment during the last three years?