

(b) Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continuing basis by the Railways to enhance safety. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signaling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training of officials and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Safety devices/systems being introduced to prevent accidents include provision of Anti-collision Device (ACD), Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS), Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), LED Signals and Vigilance Control Device (VCD), etc.

(c) Compensation is paid after a claim in this regard is filed in Railway Claims Tribunal and a decree is awarded by Railway Claims Tribunal. The amount of compensation paid to victims of train accidents in 2009-10 and the current year from 1st April to 18th November, 2010 were Rs. 2.66 crore and Rs. 1.29 crore, respectively.

(d) A total of 441 victims of train accidents are awaiting for award of decree by Railway Claims Tribunal as on 31.10.2010 for payment of compensation as their claims are yet to be decided. Majority of the pending cases pertains to recent incidents for which the process of completing documentation formalities are on. However, in some cases:—

- Submission of written statements by the Railway on the facts of the applicants take time.
- Adjournments are taken by applicants for producing evidence before the Tribunal.
- Time taken by Respondent Railway in filing of written Statement.
- Respondent Railway also seeks adjournments for cross examination of applicant's evidence.

(e) In case of death/injury in train accident, it is responsibility of the Indian Railways under the Railways Act, 1989 to pay compensation as decreed by the Railway Claims Tribunal. The insurance cover bought from general insurers is an internal mechanism to get the reimbursement of the compensation paid by the Railways to the claimants. Payment of compensation to the victims of train accidents does not get affected whether insurance cover is there or not. Presently, no insurance cover has been bought by Railways.

#### **Train services in Orissa**

1992. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether Government has any plan to run Puri-Bangalore Garib Rath, Passenger train between Puri-Badbil and Express trains from Keonjhar-Badbil to Howrah and Baripada to Howrah?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): It has been announced in the Railway Budget 2009-10 to extend 8415/8416 Puri-Kendujhargarh Express upto Badbil and in the Railway Budget 2010-11 to introduce Baripada-Shalimar Intercity Express (Tri-weekly). 0869/0870 Puri-Bangalore Garib Rath Express (weekly) is running as a special train between Puri and Bangalore upto 31.12.2010.