

introduction of mechanisation in the Traffic Accounts Offices of the Indian Railways; and

(b) if so, the details of the reports submitted by the respective Accounts Officers for each zonal railway and the action taken by Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) and (b) In connection with the simplification of accounting procedure on Railways as recommended by a Director on Special Duty, who was specially appointed for this purpose, a good deal of preparatory work had to be done before new accounting machines arrived from 1963-64. To accomplish this preparatory work competently and quickly a selected Assistant Accounts Officer was placed on special duty on each of the Zonal Railway. These Officers have completed their preparatory work and the simplification of the accounts procedure has been progressed in well defined stages. The Accounts Officers on Special Duty were not required to submit any formal reports—their principal assignment being preparation of the ground for introduction of the simplified accounting procedures as smoothly as possible on each of the Zonal Railways.

705. [Transferred to the 12th March, 1969.]

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#### RING RAILWAY IN DELHI

707. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress so far made in the completion of the ring railway in Delhi ;

(b) the time by when the railway would be completed; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred on the railway so far ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) and (b) The sanctioned project is called "Delhi Avoiding Lines and Connected Traffic Facilities". The line has been opened to goods traffic on 16th February, 1969.

(c) The total expenditure incurred upto March, 1968 is Rs. 4.38 crores and an expenditure of Rs. 1.85 crores is further expected to be incurred till its completion in all respects, including payment of land debts.

#### TRAIN COLLISION AT DELHI SHAHDRA STATION

708. SHRI M. K. MOHTA :

SHRI RAM SAHAI :

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI :

SHRI G. B. ARBOR A :

SHRI CHITTA BASU :

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM :

SHRI DWIJENDRALAL SEN GUPTA :

DR. B. N. ANTANI :

SHRI RATTANLAL JAIN :

SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI CHATURVEDI

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a parcel express collided with a stationary passenger train at Shahdra station on Thursday, the 30th January, 1969 killing some persons;

(b) if so, the number of persons killed/injured and the quantum of loss to property as a result of the accident;

(c) whether Government have investigated into the cause of the accident;

(d) if so, the results thereof; and

(e) whether Government propose to compensate the families of the dead and those injured as a result of the accident ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes. In this accident one person was killed and another 18 were injured of whom 3 sustained grievous injuries. The cost of damage to railway property has been estimated at approximately Rs. 14,86,000

(c) and (d) The Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety has held his statutory inquiry into this accident. According to his provisional finding, the accident was due to the failure of railway staff.

(e) Applications for compensation when received will be decided by the *ex officio* Claims Commissioner. No application for compensation has been received so far.

#### RAJDHANI EXPRESS

709. SHRI G. R. PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of the Rajdhani Express introduced between Delhi and Howrah from the 1st March, 1969?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : The 1st of April Up Rajdhani Expresses introduced as a bi-weekly service between New Delhi and