

(c) whether Government propose to provide further amenities to the third class passengers; if so, in what way?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) and (b). A statement showing the approximate earnings from Third Class and other classes for eleven months of the year is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) The amenities so far provided for the use of passengers generally and for the special use of Third Class passengers will be gradually extended, so as to cover more and more stations, trains and carriages.

STATEMENT

Approximate passenger earnings of Indian Railways for eleven months of 1954-55.

(Amount in lakhs of rupees.)

	Rs.
Third Class	82.63
Other Classes	
Air-Conditioned	46
I Class	64
II Class	4.01
Inter Class	4.56
Total passenger earnings.	92.30

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: May I know, in view of the fact that they are abolishing Inter Class from the 1st of April, whether the Government would extend the same facilities that are afforded to the Inter Class passengers to the Third Class passengers?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I do not know how the question arises. The name "Inter Class" has been abolished. The same fare is charged for the Second Class.

PROF. G. RANGA: He wants to know about the amenities to Third Class passengers.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: As far as the programme of providing passenger amenities is concerned, it is being consistently carried out at the House knows.

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SHRI S. MAHANTY: Why the name has been abolished we want to know.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why is the name abolished? That is a later thing. AH that you say is that you are trying to extend the facilities irrespective of the change of name.

PARASIA COAL MINE ACCIDENT

*374. SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any financial relief has been given to the families of the victims of the accident in the Newton Chikhali Colliery in the Parasia Coal field of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the extent to which such relief has been given?

THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI KHANDUBHAI DESAI): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

STATEMENT

1. Government of India.	Rs. 100 per family
2. Government of Madhya Pradesh.	Rs. 100 per family
3. Cotton Co-ordination Committee.	Rs. 225 per family
4. Management of Newton Chikhali Colliery.	Rs. 200 per family
5. Indian National Trade Union Congress.	Rs. 15 per family

6. In addition, the management also gave a sum of Rs. 10 per family immediately after the accident; and Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 per family to enable them to buy woollen clothes.

7. The Government of India have also decided to grant from the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund, a monthly allowance of Rs. 10 to each widow for a period of two years and a scholarship of Rs. 5 per month to each of the children of the deceased attending school for a period of three years.

* 44 families have already been paid.

8. Compensation will also be paid to the dependants of the deceased as admissible under the Workmen's Compensation Act. A sum of Rs. 95,030 being the amount of workmen's compensation in respect of 63 deceased miners has been deposited by the management with the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner, Chhindwara.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, who fixed the relief and compensation?

SHRI KHANDUBHAI DESAI: The statement lays down the relief which is in addition to the compensation payable under the Compensation Act, and therefore whatever relief has been given has been given voluntarily by various bodies.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, whether it was not due to the failure of the colliery to take effective steps that this accident occurred?

SHRI KHANDUBHAI DESAI: This question has been thoroughly discussed everywhere and we have already appointed a court of enquiry and one of the members of the court of enquiry is an hon. Member from this House and we must await the report of the enquiry.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Would it not have been reasonable to ask the colliery to pay more in the shape of relief than what has been now allotted?

SHRI KHANDUBHAI DESAI: The colliery has paid Rs. 200 per family. In addition, as I have said in the statement, there is scholarship for the children. They have also said that they would not ask the members of the family of the deceased to go out of their houses, and also those nominees of the deceased who may like to work will be given work in addition to what they have got to pay under the compensation legislation which in total amount* to

about Rs. 95,000, which has been deposited with the Compensation Commissioner.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, on what basis this quantum of relief was fixed?

SHRI KHANDUBHAI DESAI: That has been fixed voluntarily by various bodies, as I have said in the statement. The Government of India has paid Rs. 100 per family; the Government of Madhya Pradesh Rs. 100 per family; the Cotton Co-ordination Committee Rs. 225 per family; Management of the colliery Rs. 200 per family and the Indian National Trade Union Congress Rs. 15 per family. Altogether voluntary payment amounts to Rs. 640.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: My point is this. Should not this quantum have been based on the number of members in the family? It is now uniformly fixed per family.

SHRI KHANDUBHAI DESAI: It is very obvious that it is an *ad hoc* payment which is paid under no compulsion. As far as the compensation under the Compensation Act is concerned, it will be paid in addition to these and other aids that have been given by the various bodies.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: Does the Government know that from the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund it was decided to pay Rs. 50,000 to these families at the rate of Rs. 10 per widow for two years, Rs. 5 per child for three years. The widows could also come to work at the centres started by the Government through this Rs. 50,000 and with the help of Madhya Pradesh Government for training them in crafts, and does Government know that the proprietor has closed down this centre and persuaded the widows of the families not to come and learn these things and is coercing them to get married again so that his responsibility may be over? Would Government take note of that and take some action in the matter?

MR. CHAIRMAN: She is making a speech and giving information.

SHRI KHANDUBHAI DESAI: I can only say this much that the Central Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund has made certain payments, which has been stated already in the statement. About other matters it is a very long question and I do not know how I can answer that.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Since widow-remarriage is a very progressive reform, may I know, Sir, what is the harm in the management asking the widows to remarry?

DR. SHFIM*TI SEETA PARMA-NAND: I used the words "coercing them".

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is disallowed.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: In that question there was a serious complaint that the employees were trying to avoid paying compensation by some of these dubious methods.

SHRI KHANDUBHAI DESAI: Under no circumstances can he avoid paying compensation to the persons who met with this accident. The compensation law is very clear on this point.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Now, Sir, the question is whether in view of the complaint to which the hon. Member has drawn the attention of the Government, the Government will look into the matter.

SHRI KHANDUBHAI DESAI: Of course everything that has been said by any responsible Member of this House is always taken into consideration by this democratic Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We assume that all Members are responsible.

SHRI R. U. AGNIBHOJ: Will the Government ask the colliery to take care of those persons who are old and disabled and who have lost the only earning member of their families?

MR. CHAIRMAN: All things are looked into, he said.

TOURISTS IN INDIA

*375. SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 500 American tourists will visit India shortly during their 32,565 mile "Great World Cruise of 1955";

(b) if so, whether they will be given, opportunities for inland travel with special excursions and optional tours;

(c) the number of tourists who visited India during the year 1954; and

(d) whether all the tourists were provided with opportunities for inland travel with special excursions and optional tours?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) and (b). About 500 American tourists visited India early in March 1955 by the s. s. "Caronia"—(Great World Cruise of 1955) and were given facilities for inland travel.

(c) 39,333.

(d) Assistance was given in arranging special excursions for large parties of tourists. Assistance was also given to others by Tourist Officers on request.

D GPÉE COURSE IN DAIRY SCIENCE

*376. SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme for the establishment of an expanded Dairy Institute providing degree courses in dairy science is under the consideration of Government;

(b) if so, what are the outlines of the scheme; and

(c) what action has been taken to implementing the same?