

Israel Joint Research Programme (IIRP) was signed on 2.8.2012 to promote collaborative research across a wide range of disciplines. The initial cooperation for this programme is for a period of five years (2013-2018). The main characteristics of the programme are:—

- It has a broad disciplinary scope and includes Life Sciences, Medicine, Exact Sciences and Technologies, Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts;
- It include funding of workshops and joint research projects;
- Funding is based on the peer review of joint projects;
- It is aimed to support basic research, conducted primarily in academic research institutions;
- Joint management of the evaluation will be under taken by University Grants Commission and All India Council for Technical Education of India and the Israel Science Foundation of Israel; and
- It is governed by a joint steering committee.

Permission for railway crossings for development projects

2283. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a specific time-frame within which permission for railway crossings for various development projects should be given;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that several proposals for permission for railway crossings for various water supply projects in Gujarat are pending with the railway authorities; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Railways receive requests from various agencies/individuals for crossings of railway tracks for various purposes. Such proposals are examined and permission is granted expeditiously if the proposal is complete, feasible, does not affect safety of trains, and after the party has deposited the required fees and met with all the procedural requirements. As the sponsoring parties take time in complying with the procedural requirements, no target can be set by railways for granting approval to the proposals.

(b) and (c) As at present 126 proposals for permission of railway crossings in Gujarat for water supply projects are under different stages/examination and approvals.

Compensation for train accidents

2284. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who died in train accidents, during the last three years, year-wise and zone-wise;

(b) the number of dependents of victims of train accidents who were provided jobs during the last three years, year-wise and zone-wise;

(c) whether Railways' rules provide for compensation to dependents of train accident victims but employment has been provided only in cases where announcement has been made by the Minister of Railways; and

(d) if so, the reasons for injustice with other kin of persons who lost their lives in train mishaps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Year-wise and zone-wise number of persons who lost their lives in consequential train accidents excluding incidents of trespassing at unmanned level crossings during the last three years and the current year from April to July, 2012, is given below:—

Railways	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (From April to July, 2012)
1	2	3	4	5
Central	2	0	0	1
Eastern	1	67	5	0
East Central	6	0	11	0
Northern	4	3	0	3
North Eastern	0	1	1	0
Northeast Frontier	1	1	1	0
North Western	7	0	0	0
Southern	4	0	11	0
South Central	0	0	0	30

1	2	3	4	5
South Eastern	2	152	0	0
Western	1	0	0	0
East Coast	1	1	10	0
South Western	0	0	0	25
West Central	0	24	4	0
North Central	39	2	71	0
South East Central	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	68	251	114	59

(b) Year-wise and zone-wise number of employment provided to the dependents of victims of train accidents on railways in 2009, 2010, 2011 and the current year from January to July, 2012, is given below:—

Railways	January to December, 2009	January to December, 2010	January to December, 2011	January to July, 2012
1	2	3	4	5
Central	0	0	0	0
Eastern	0	13	22	6
East Central	8	0	1	0
Northern	0	0	0	0
North Eastern	0	0	0	0
Northeast Frontier	0	0	0	0
North Western	0	0	0	0
Southern	0	0	0	0
South Central	0	0	0	0
South Eastern	0	5	9	11
Western	0	0	0	0
East Coast	0	0	0	0
South Western	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
West Central	0	17	0	0
North Central	0	0	41	0
South East Central	0	0	1	0
TOTAL:	8	35	74	17

(c) and (d) Extant rules provide for compensation to accident victims on the basis of claims filed by them in the Railway Claims Tribunal and decrees to be awarded by the Tribunal. There is no general policy for providing employment to dependents of those who lost their lives in train accidents. However, considering the human sufferings in major consequential train accidents, employment has been provided purely as a humanitarian gesture wherever announcement to this effect has been made by Hon'ble Minister of Railways.

H.O. quota for Nalanda, Bihar

2285. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that previously there used to be H.O. quota for Nalanda, Bihar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said quota has since been done away with;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether Government would consider to restore the H.O. quota for Nalanda and ply good quality and good condition coaches on New Delhi-Rajgir route in view of it being an internationally renowned historical place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir. There was no H.O. Quota at Nalanda.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) All the coaches of trains plying on New Delhi-Rajgir route are within prescribed codal life. Maintenance and upkeep of coaches is a continual requirement and this is carried out periodically during laid down maintenance schedules. Besides, coaches are also being given mid-life rehabilitation after attaining 12-15 years of life and complete interior furnishing is replaced.

Concessions in freight

2286. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: