

(b) the rate at which compensation was paid; and

(c) how many of these claims are still pending for payment, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to expedite the settlement thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) 116.

(b) Rs. 1 lakh in each case of death.

(c) 115 claims are pending settlement. Compensation is awarded by the Railway Claims Tribunal which is a judicial body. Award has been given in 12 cases. Payment has been made in one of these cases and balance are under process of payment. Railway Administration give all possible assistance to the claimants for filing their claims. An ex-gratia amount of Rs. 9,85,000 has been paid to the next of kith of the dead passengers.

**Trade agreement between British Overseas Development Authority and Coal India Limited**

15. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a representative of the British Overseas Development Authority had recently come to India and met the Chairman, Coal India Limited in Calcutta;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the purpose of the visit;

(c) whether any trade agreement was arrived at between them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Mr. T.P. Lankester, Permanent Secretary, Overseas Development Administration made a courtesy call on Chairman, Coal India Limited in his office in Calcutta on 19th

January, 1990.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

**Train Accident at Nonapar Station**

16. SHRI HARSH VARDHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons killed and injured in the train accident on 1 January, 1990 at Nonapar station of North Eastern Railway; and

(b) the steps taken to provide relief and assistance to the victims?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) 10 passengers suffered minor injuries. One railway employee was killed, 2 suffered grievous injuries and another sustained minor injuries.

(b) Medical assistance was rendered to the injured persons at the site of accident. 2 grievously hurt railway employees were brought to Gorakhpur and admitted in Railway hospital. Rs. 11,750/- was disbursed as ex-gratia relief.

**Conversion of Salempur-Barhaz Railway Line**

17. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for conversion of Salempur-Barhaz railway line on North Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the total expenditure likely to be incurred thereon and the time by which this work will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There is no