

Payment of Compensation in case of Fire

7169. SHRI D. S. A. SIVPRAKASAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any compensation is given either to the Consignee or the Consignor when the goods sent by Railway is damaged by fire; and

(b) if so, what is the procedure and amount of compensation for articles/goods sent on Railway?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) According to statutory provisions contained in Section 73 of the Indian Railways Act, 1890 (9 of 1890), a railway administration shall not be responsible, inter alia, for loss, destruction, damage; deterioration or non-delivery, in transit of animals or goods delivered to the administration to be carried by railway, arising from fire provided the railway administration proves that it has used reasonable foresight and care in the carriage of the animals or goods.

(b) Each claim for compensation has to be dealt with on its merits having due regard to the Railways' liability under the provisions of the Indian Railways Act. In all cases of fire, invariably a departmental enquiry is held and on the basis of the finding of the Enquiry Committee the claims are disposed of having regard to the statutory provisions referred to above. If enquiry reveals that loss, destruction, damage, deterioration or non-delivery caused by fire arose on account of failure on the part of the railway administration to exercise reasonable foresight and care in the carriage of the animals or goods, in such circumstances the claim for compensation payable is normally the beejuck value of the goods less salvage value. In case of household goods, used motor cars etc., where beejucks are not available, the depreciated value of goods is taken into account while settling such claims.

Madras Coach Builders

7170. SHRI MANI RAM BAGRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have placed orders with the Madras Coach Builders for manufacture of coaches;

(b) if so, how many coaches;

(c) whether orders were also placed with M/s. Modern Industries, Sahibabad for supply of railway wagons but the company failed to make the supply in time; and

(d) whether the production capacity of both of them had gone down during 1979-80 and if so, the causes thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). The Integral Coach Factory (I.C.F.) located at Perambur (Madras) is a Departmental Production Unit of the Ministry of Railways which has been set up for production of Railway coaches for Indian Railways. In 1979-80 I.C.F. turned out 712 coaches as against the target of 710 coaches. The Production target for 1980-81 is 720 coaches.

(c) The Ministry of Railways places orders (for wagons) regularly on all active wagon builders including M/s. Modern Industries. In general there has been no failure on the part of M/s. Modern Industries to deliver the wagons.

(d) There was no shortfall in production of coaches from I.C.F. and of wagons from M/s. Modern Industries, Sahibabad during 1979-80.

Number of Passenger and Cargo Ships Manufactured

7171. SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Passenger and Cargo Ships manufactured by Shipping yards for the past five years;