STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Rail Accident at Jalandhar-Pathankot Section in Ferozepur Division of Northern Railway

Title: Statement regarding rail accident at Jalandhar-Pathankot section in Ferozepur Division of Northern Railway. - Laid.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can lay the statement on the Table of the House.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): Sir, I beg to lay the Statement on the Table of the House.

At about 12.00 hrs of 14.12.2004, 1 JMP DMU (Diesel Multiple Unit) Passenger Train going from Jalandhar to Pathankot collided with Train No. 9112 Jammu Tawi-Ahmedabad Express. Two coaches of Jalandhar-Pathankot Passenger capsized and two coaches of Jammu Tawi Express derailed. Accident occurred between Bhangala and Mirthal Stations which are on Jalandhar − Pathankot Section of Ferozepur Division of Northern Railway. This site is in Hoshiarpur District of Punjab.

After making the statement in Parliament, Minister for Railways and Minister of State for Railways rushed to the accident site and visited Hospitals where injured had been admitted. The Hospital authorities were advised to provide necessary medical assistance on priority.

The prima-facie cause of the accident is one of human failure and Commissioner of Railway Safety, Northern Railways is enquiring into the cause of accident.

No. of deaths :: 37

No. of injured :: 53

Already discharged :: 13

In Hospitals :: 40

(Mukerian, Dasua, Jullandhar and Ludhiana)

Hon'ble Minister of Railways has announced an ex-gratia as

Death case :: Rs. 1,00,000/- each

Grievous injuries :: Rs. 15, 000/- each

Simple injuries :: Rs. 5,000/- each

The wards of the dead and handicapped will be provided jobs in the Railways.

Both the Assistant Station Masters of the Bhangala and Mirthal Railway Stations have been placed under suspension. The line has been restored at 2.30 hrs this morning and the first Train passed at 4.10 hrs.

...(*Interruptions*)

————————

12.19 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Srichand Kriplani and some

other Hon. members came and stood on the

floor near the Table)

...(*Interruptions*)