

Accidents on Nagpur-Bhusawal Section

2710. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of accidents occurred since 1993 between Bhusawal and Badnera on Nagpur-Bombay Railway Line;

(c) the causes thereof and the amount of losses involved in these accidents; and

(c) the remedial action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid their recurrences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND HOLDING ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Seven accidents have occurred between Bhusawal and Badnera on Nagpur-Bombay line since 1993.

(b) (i) Failure of railway staff (5 cases) and Failure of equipment (2 cases).

(ii) Railway suffered a loss of Rs. 7.51 crores as a result of these accidents.

(c) Some of the steps taken to improve safety performance of Indian Railways are indicated below:-

(i) Nearly 17,000 drivers with less than 10 years active driving services and 40,000 station staff have been subjected to special screening and those found deficient were given crash training.

(ii) Two high-level safety teams have been making extensive spot checks and inspections of field installations and practices.

(iii) Stringent penalty to the extent of dismissal or removal from service is being imposed on the staff causing serious train accidents.

(iv) Elimination of collisions has been made one of the mission areas for General Managers of Indian Railways.

(v) Instant Action Groups have been formed on certain nominated trains to check entry of unauthorised passengers in reserved coaches and carrying inflammable/explosive material.

(vi) Carriage and Wagon examination of rolling stock has been strengthened and rationalised.

(vii) Track circuiting works on Rajdhani and Shatabadi routes have been speeded up.

(viii) Track renewals on all important routes are being liquidated.

(ix) Regular inspections are carried out by officers, inspectors and supervisors to ensure that the staff follow the correct rules and procedures.

(x) Modern safety aids like track circuiting, panel interlocking, axle counters, etc. have been provided to improve safety.

Dolphin Population

2711. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUÉ :

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV :

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN :

Will be the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been made on Dolphin population in the Indian waters;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the areas where this specie is most seen;

(c) whether this specie face a threat of extinction;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to preserve the Dolphin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. According to the 1991 report of a survey conducted by the Zoological Survey of India, the dolphins are most seen in the Chambal, Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers of India. The Zoological Survey of India has estimated the population of river Dolphins as 500-750 in the Ganga and its tributaries, 500 in the Brahmaputra, 43-47 in the Chambal and 3000-3500 in the estuarine belt.

(c) and (d). There is no immediate threat of extinction to dolphins reported by any State. However, on the basis of available reports, the threat of extinction of local populations, at places where over-exploitation of fish by fishermen takes place, cannot be ruled out. Sometimes the dolphins also die because of getting entangled in fishing nets.

(e) The steps taken by the Government to protect dolphins include :

(i) This specie has been included in Schedule of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and its hunting has been banned by law.