

[Translation]

Report of Commissioner of Railway Safety

*478. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reports of the Commissioner of Railway safety on railway accidents are made public;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of railway accidents enquired into by the Commissioner of Railway Safety during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether the enquiry reports on these accidents would be laid on the Table; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Year	Number of railway accidents inquired into by CRS
1988-89	11 nos.
1989-90	4 nos.
1990-91	8 nos.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Copies of the printed report are, however, sent to the library of the Parliament.

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the total number of accidents took place in 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91; and how many of these accidents investigated. Which errors have been found occurring repeatedly that have been mentioned in the reports received after inquiry. Will the hon. Minister tell something in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : Sir, Commissioner of Railway Safety does not maintain a record of number of such accidents. On being

asked to conduct an inquiry into the accident, the Commissioner of Railway Safety begins the inquiry proceedings. Every accident is not investigated by the Commissioner and I do not have figures of such accidents with me.

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wanted to know the findings of inquiry reports received so far and on the basis of these reports, what remedial steps can be taken, to prevent recurrence of train accidents.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The Commissioner of Railway Safety often sends his suggestions on the basis of his inquiry report. After that it depends upon the Ministry of Railways to act on these suggestions.

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA: I would like to know the steps taken by the Government on the basis of inquiry reports submitted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety. Has the Government acted accordingly after considering the reports or does it propose to act?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Action on inquiry report is taken by the Ministry of Railways and not by the Commissioner of Railway Safety.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: This question mainly pertains to train accidents, but the reply is being given by the Minister of Civil Aviation because the Commissioner of Railway Safety comes under the jurisdiction of his Ministry. My question is to the former Minister of Railways (*Interruptions*)

Only recently he was the Minister of Railways. Sir, what were his experiences as Minister of Railways because it appears some what strange that inquiry into train accidents is conducted outside the Ministry of Railways. Should the job of inquiry into train accidents be not vested with the Ministry of Railways. Has the present division of responsibilities in any way contributed to reducing train accidents and can the Ministry of Railways not make arrangements for impartial inquiry. I would like that the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation may reply keeping in view his past experiences.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I think

the arrangements can certainly be made in the Ministry of Railways but then impartiality of inquiry should amply be demonstrated to the whole country. The Commissioner of Railway Safety has been kept outside the purview of the Ministry of Railways, just to heighten the credibility of inquiry.

[English]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Has it come to the notice of his Ministry that sometimes it is so happening that the railway driver is made to work for nearly 24 hours and sometimes even more from signing off to signing on and that because of the fatigue, sometimes it leads to some accident? In view of these facts, will his Ministry issue suitable instructions so that the railway drivers are not subjected to such fatigues and strictly adhere to eight-hour work schedule?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The findings are presented from time to time. The Railway Ministry should take note of these findings. That is what we expect. But as far as 24-hour working is concerned, I think, it is for the Railway Minister to answer that.

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether it is correct that the Commissioner of Railway Safety suggested to the Department for the renewal of the railway track from Nagda to Ratlam on Western Railway because of its dilapidated state and if so, then what action has been taken thereon?

MR. SPEAKER: No, Mr. Joshi, it is a separate question.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety mentions...

MR. SPEAKER: No, Mr. Joshi. There is one other organisation for railway safety and when accident takes place, that organisation conducts an inquiry into the causes of accident. That is why your question is not concerned with it.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to overageing of railway

track, train accidents occur every now and then. I would like to know what remedial steps are being taken by Government to improve this section of Western Railway.

[English]

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK: I do not think we have any answer for that.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Nainpur divisional office

*468. **SHRI MOHAN LAL JHIKRAM:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether full staff has been provided in the office of Assistant Divisional Railway Manager at Nainpur, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the recent rail accident near Shikara was on account of inadequate staff in Nainpur; and

(c) the time by which adequate staff is likely to be given to that office?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir. Three ministerial staff and one Group 'D' staff has been provided for the office of Additional Divisional Railway Manager at Nainpur.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Appraisal of functioning of department of non-conventional energy sources

*469. **SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:**
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL
KATHERIA:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "CAG raps DNES on expenditure" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated July 22, 1991;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the number of officials found guilty in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be