

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1611  
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2002  
ALTERNATIVES TO FISH PLATES  
CHADA SURESH REDDY;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether two rail accidents one in May and another in September, 2002 have caused due to missing of fish plates;
- (b) whether Konkan Railway has done away with fish- plates and has used long-welded rails that stretch up to about 30 kms. at one go;
- (c) if so, whether the Ministry's Civil Engineering Directorate has also been looking for alternatives to fish-plates;
- (d) whether the proposed alternative is the replacement of all fish-plates with long-welded rails, especially on the routes of important trains and at locations like bridges;
- (e) whether any concrete programme in this regard has been worked out;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the time by which it is likely to be implemented and completed?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA)

(a): On 12th May, 2002, 2402 New Delhi-Patna Shramjeevi Express and on 9th September, 2002, 2301 Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express met with accidents due to removal of fish plates by unknown persons.

(b): The length of long welded rails on Konkan Railway varies from 0.650 metres to a maximum of 20 kilometres only.

(c) to (g): Replacement of fish plated joints with welded joints, was started by Indian Railways since more than, last two decades. As on 1st April, 2002 approximately 69% of the track on broad gauge is having long welded rails. However, it is mentioned that all fish plated joints cannot be welded due to technical considerations. Replacement of fish plated joints with welded joints wherever feasible is a continuous on-going process.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3708 ASKED BY SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 08.08.2002 REGARDING RAILWAY ACCIDENT IN PUNNOL

(a): Yes, Sir. On 27.06.2002 at 08.54 hrs. 6345 Netravati Express dashed against a road vehicle at Manned level crossing No.224 between Tellicherry and Mahe stations of Palghat Division of Southern Railway. As a result, one person got killed and another injured.

(b): The accident is being inquired into by the Commissioner of Railway Safety/Southern Circle, and his inquiry report is awaited.

(a) Following steps are taken to avoid recurrence of accidents at level crossings :-

(i) Manned Level Crossings having very heavy traffic density are progressively interlocked with signals on a planned basis.

(ii) Telephones are also being gradually provided at all manned level crossing gates.

(iii) Surprise checks, night inspections and periodic safety drives are regularly conducted to check the alertness of gatemen.

(iv) Stringent penalty to the extent of dismissal/removal from service is imposed on staff held responsible for causing accidents.

(v) Special Drives are launched to identify errant road users at Unmanned Level Crossings in co- ordination with Transport Authorities.

(vi) Joint Ambush Checks with civil authorities are conducted to nab errant road vehicle drivers under the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the Railways Act, 1989.

(vii) Audio-visual publicity campaigns are conducted to educate road users on how to negotiate a crossing safely.

