

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:39
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2001
IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENATIONS OF RAILWAY SAFETY REVIEW COMMITTEE
DAGGUBATI RAMANAIDU

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways are facing funds crunch to implement the recommendations made by the Railway Safety Review Committee;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the railways to mobilise additional funds and seeks Central assistance in this regard; and
- (c) the steps taken to renew obsolete railways assets and running stock, to avert railway accidents?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 39 BY SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 22.2.2001 REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATION: RAILWAY SAFETY REVIEW COMMITTEE

(a to (c) The Railway finances are presently passing through a difficult phase, primarily due to the impact of implementation of the Vth Central Pay Commission recommendations. Despite financial constraints, safety has been accorded the highest priority within the available resources, which is indicated in the figures of expenditure on safety given below:-

(Rs. in crore)

1998-99	2313
1999-2000	2656
2000-01 (RE)	2902

However, much more is needed. Separately, a pilot project for development and testing of an anti-collision device has been taken up on NF Railway at a cost of Rs.50 crore. Various other steps have also been taken to strengthen safety, including provision of walkie-talkie sets to Drivers & Guards.

The Railway Safety Review Committee has, in its interim Report, recommended that the Central Government should provide a one-time grant of Rs. 15000 crore to the Railways for rehabilitation of their over-aged assets. Government's attention has been drawn to this recommendation. But in view of the overall fiscal constraints, Government has not extended this specific assistance so far. However, the Government has separately transferred Rs. 200 crore during 1999-2000 and Rs. 300 crore during the current year to the Railways from the Central Road Fund to facilitate the execution of specific safety works such as manning of unmanned level crossings and construction of Rail over/under bridges.