

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:368
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2000
EXECUTION OF SAFETY MEASURES
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Railways are facing serious financial crunch with regard to execution of the safety measures;
- (b) whether the Railways, have sought any Central assistance for this purpose; and
- (c) if so, the response of the Government thereto ?

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 TOPARTS (a) to (c) OF STARREDQUESTION NO. 368 BY SHRI ASHOKN. MOHOLTO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 14.12.2000 REGARDING EXECUTION OF SAFETY MEASURES.

(a) to (c) The Railway Finance`s are presently passing through a difficult phase. This notwithstanding, safety works are being carried out based on their priority within the available resources. The plan expenditure on safety in the last three years has been as under:-

(Rs. in cr)

1998-99	2313.04
1999-2000	2656.12
2000-2001	3571.04

The safety preparedness of Railways has suffered long years of neglect due to successive decline investment and long delay in bringing about much needed reforms at the structural level. Keeping this in view, the current year's allocation includes 37% and 26% higher allocation on track renewal and signaling & telecommunication respectively, over the last year's outlay. However, much more is needed. Separately, the pilot project of anti-collision device on NF Railway has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 50 crore. Various other significant steps have also been taken to strengthen safety, which inter alia includes 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 cr to the Railways for rehabilitation of their overaged assets. Government's attention has been drawn to this recommendation. A response is awaited. However, the Government has transferred Rs 200 cr during 1999-2000 and Rs 300 cr during the current year to the Railways from the Central Road Fund to facilitate the execution of specified safety works such as manning of unmanned level crossings and construction of Rail over/under bridges.