

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1666
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2003
HELP FROM PANCHAYATS DURING ACCIDENT RELIEF
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any plan to contact and involve all Panchayats along the railway tracks to help and rush aid during rail accidents;
- (b) whether this plan has been implemented;
- (c) the number of panchayats were contacted and brought into a coordinating role with the railways in the last two years;
- (d) the State-wise break-up of such involvement of Panchayats with the Railways in accident-anticipation and accident-relief; and
- (e) the steps proposed to increase involvement of panchayats in this effort ?

Answer

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

(a)to(e): No Sir. However, in cases of train accidents the people residing in the nearby villages and towns ordinarily come forward, to render assistance in rescue and relief measures. Besides, the State Governments were requested in 1994 and 1995 to address the heads of every village, falling under their jurisdiction to arrange meetings with their villagers and create awareness in them how to negotiate unmanned level crossings and avoid dangers in careless driving. To educate the villagers regarding precautions to be taken for negotiating unmanned level crossing, Zonal Railways undertake campaigns from time to time in which various civic bodies, district administrations, municipalities, village panchayats and many non-governmental agencies are closely involved. These social campaigns are carried out by zonal Railways primarily, to focus on the role of road vehicle users in enhancing safety.