

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:673
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2002
RAILWAY SAFETY MEASURES
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Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in spite of increased plan allocation and budgetary support for execution of railway safety measures, the Indian railway is suffering from financial crunch;
- (b) if so, the main reasons therefor;
- (c) whether an expenditure on railway safety has been increased from 2313.04 crore in 1998-99 to 3517.04 crore in 2001-2002 and further in 2002-2003 the safety measures are not getting speedy pace;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Indian Railways has asked the Union Government to provide more funds to safety measures to Indian Railways; and
- (f) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (Shri Bandaru Dattatraya)

- (a) & (b): While the total budgetary support to the Railways in 2002-03 has increased compared to last year, there is still a shortfall because the committed requirements of the Railways, which include the contribution for the Special Railway Safety Fund, are not fully met. The Railway's internal generation is also not yet adequate to fully take care of replacement requirement.
- (c) & (d): The expenditure of railway safety was Rs. 2313.04 crore in 1998-99, Rs. 3344.94 crore in 2001-02 and in 2002-03 the allotment for safety measures is Rs. 5304.72 crore implying an increase of 129% in safety related works.
- (e) & (f): The Government, in 2001-02, has constituted a Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) of Rs. 17000 crore to wipe out the arrears of replacement/renewals in a fixed time schedule of six years. The amount of Rs. 17000 crore includes a contribution of Rs. 12000 crore from the Government over six years and the balance Rs. 5000 crore is to be raised by the Railways through levy of safety surcharge on passenger fares. During 2001-02, the SRSF has received a contribution of Rs. 1000 crore from the Central Government and during the current year Rs. 1350 crore are being contributed.