

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:160
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2000
PROBLEMS OF RAIL FRACTURE
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Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether due to temperature fall, Railways are facing problems of rail fracture, particularly in North India:
- (b) if so, the total number of cases of rail fracture reported from different parts of the country during the last three years and the damage caused by these fractures;
- (c) whether Railways have conducted any analysis in this regard;
- (d) if so, the main findings thereof;
- (e) whether the quality of rails from the SAIL is one of the major factor causing fractures; and
- (f) if so, the details and the corrective steps being taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RALWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Number of rail fracture reported from different parts of the country in last 3 years are as under:-

1997-98	1612 Nos.
1998-99	1747 Nos.
1999 upto Jan.2000	2448 Nos.

The main damage caused by these fractures is loss of punctuality to trains.

However, there have also been stray cases of accidents due to Rail Fractures. These accidents have caused an approximate damage of Rs.3.14 crores during 1997-98, Rs 4.93 crores during 1998-99 and Rs.2.46 crores during 1999-2000.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Sudden impact, high internal stresses, corrosion, manufacturing defects and fatigue of boltholes, are the main causes of the rail fractures as analyzed by Research, Design & Standards Organisation of Indian Railway.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) To improve the quality of rails in Bhilai Steel Plant, the Vacuum Arc Degasser has recently been commissioned to reduce the Hydrogen Content in liquid steel. For exercising better checks on the quality of rails, On-line Ultrasonic Flaw Detection Testing Machine & Eddy Current Testing Machine have also been recently installed at Bhilai Steel Plant.