

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6718
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2003
INDEPENDENT OBSERVERS FOR ACCIDENT SITES
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways will appoint independent observers to rush to accident sites to supervise and monitor and observe the assistance and relief being given by railways to accident victims;
- (b) whether railways react very slowly to accident news;
- (c) whether relief trains reach very late at accident site; and
- (d) the details of steps proposed to be taken to improve the present system to avoid delay in reaching of relief trains at accident site on time?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6718 BY SH. A. BRAHMANAIAH TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 8.05.2003 REGARDING INDEPENDENT OBSERVERS FOR ACCIDENT SITES

(a) to (c). No, Sir.

(d) Efforts are made on a continuous basis to improve the system and make it more efficient and effective. Some of the proposed measures are as follows:-

- (i) Introduction of three coach high speed self-sufficient SPARTs (Self Propelled Accident Relief Train) for quicker initial response.
- (ii) Rationalization of location of Accident Relief Train (ART) and Accident Relief Medical Vans (ARMV).
- (iii) Entering into MOU with State Govt. for mutual cooperation
- (iv) Institutionalizing standing arrangement with Armed Forces
- (v) Enhancing maximum permissible speeds of ART and ARMV
- (vi) Better communication facilities e.g. availability of satellite phones and mobile exchanges, etc.
- (vii) Formation of Disaster Management Plan at various tiers
- (viii) Empowering field units to effectively tackle post disaster situation
- (ix) Full scale disaster management exercises