

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:395
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2000
FIRE INCIDENTS IN TRAINS
CHANDRAKANT BHURAO KHAIRE

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of fire incidents in trains during the last three years, zone-wise;
- (b) the number of passengers killed/injured in such incidents and the steps taken by the Government to compensate the injured and the families of deceased; and
- (c) the special steps taken by the Government to check such incidents ?

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 TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 395 BY SHRI CHANDRA KHAIRE, TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 20.04.2000 REGARDING FIRE INCIDENTS IN TRAINS

- (a) Zone-wise number of consequential fire accidents occurred in Railways during the last three years is given in Appendix-I.
- (b) The number of persons killed and injured in such accidents is given in Appendix-II.

Following steps are being taken by the Railways to compensate injured and families of deceased persons.

(i) Medical Assistance : In case of an accident involving casualties or injuries, Accident Relief Medical Vans and Accident Relief Trains accompanied with Doctors are rushed to site of accident to provide prompt medical aid. The injured passengers requiring medical aid after being rendered medical assistance on the spot are admitted in Railway Hospital or nearby private hospitals for their treatment. During their treatment in Railway Hospital, medical care is taken by the Railways. Emergency cases, requiring expert services, are referred to private hospitals by Railway Doctors as considered necessary and charges are paid directly to the hospitals for such emergency treatment.

(ii) Ex - Gratia and Compensation : In case of death/injury of a passenger in a rail accident, next of kin of deceased and to injured persons are given ex-gratia and compensation as per the following schedule : Ex-gratia

- (i) Rs. 15,000/- in case of death.
- (ii) Rs. 5,000/- in case of grievous injury.
- (iii) Rs. 500/- in case of simple injury.

Compensation

The amount of compensation is decided by Railway Claims Tribunal as per the Railway Accident & Untoward Incidents (Compensation) Amendment Rules, 1997 which lay down: -

- (i) Rs. 4 lakhs for death and permanent disability.
- (ii) Rs. 32,000 to Rs. 3,60,000 depending upon the gravity of the injury.

(c) Steps taken to check such type of incidents are given below:

1. Carriage of inflammable/explosive material in passenger coaches is prohibited and punishable under the Railways Act, 1989.
2. An intensive campaign through public address system has been launched to sensitize the public about the dangers from explosives and need to maintain extreme vigilance regarding unclaimed/unattended objects.

3. Intensive publicity is carried out through televisions quickies, advertisements in the National and local press to educate the public against the hazards of carrying inflammable material in their luggage.

4. Mail and Express trains have been provided with escorts with directions to conduct random checks on the passengers and luggage in the trains over sensitive areas.

5. Instant Action Groups have been provided in important trains to prevent entry of unauthorised passengers and carrying of inflammable articles etc.

Appendix I & II referred to in reply to the Lok Starred question No.395 for 20.04.2000

Appendix - I

Fire accidents, Zone-wise during the last three years

Fire accidents, Zone-wise during the last three years

Railway	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000++
Central	3	2	8
Eastern	--	--	5
Northern	1	1	3
North Eastern	--	--	--
Northeast	1	--	1
Frontier			
Southern	1	1	1
South Central	--	--	--
South Eastern	--	1	2
Western	--	--	1
Metro	--	--	--
Konkan	--	1	--
Railway			
Total	6	6	21

Of 21 accidents during 1999-2000, 6 have been attended to with casualties to passengers.

Appendix - II

Number of persons killed and injured in fire accidents

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000++
Killed	1		22+
Injured	6	52	25+

+ Fire in 2137 Dn Punjab Mail near Bhusaval resulted in 18 deaths and 15 injuries.

++Figures for 1999-2000 are provisional