

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:170

ANSWERED ON:03.08.2000

COLLISION BETWEEN HOWRAH AMRITSAR MAIL AND SAHARANPUR PASSENGER TRAIN

RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Howrah Amritsar Mail and Saharanpur passenger trains were collided near Ambala Cantt railway station recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of persons killed and injured as a result thereof;
- (d) the amount of compensation paid to the families of killed and injured persons;
- (e) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;
- (f) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon; and
- (g) the measures taken to avoid such type of accidents in future ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE)

(a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 170 BY S/SHRI RAVINDRA KUM. PANDEY AND RATTANLAL KATARIA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 03.08.2000 REGARDING COLLISION BETWEEN HOWRAH AMRITSAR MAIL AND SAHARANPUR PASSENGER TRAIN

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. On 01.07.2000, 3005 Up Howrah-Amritsar Mail collided in the rear of the empty rake of 2 US Passenger between Ambala Cantt. and Ambala City stations of Northern Railway's Ambala Division. As per Preliminary Report of Commissioner of Railway Safety, North Eastern Circle, Lucknow, this accident occurred on account of mishandling of signaling equipment by Electric Signal Maintainer for which staff of Signaling Department has been held responsible.

(c) Number of persons killed and injured in this accident are as under :

Killed Grievous Minor

Railway staff 2 - 2  
Passenger - 1 4

(d) Ex-gratia payment of Rs.15,000/- was made to next of kin of two deceased persons, Rs.5,000/- to one grievously injured and Rs.500/- to each of 6 persons who received minor injuries. For consideration of compensation claims for which the maximum limit is Rs.4 lakhs, the next of kin of deceased persons or the injured persons shall have to prefer claims in the concerned Bench of Railway Claims Tribunal that will adjudicate on these claims. Compensation will be paid soon after the claims are decreed by the Tribunal.

(e) & (f) Yes, Sir, an inquiry has been conducted by Commissioner of Railway Safety, North Eastern Circle, Lucknow. While Preliminary Report has been received, Final Report is awaited. Action against delinquent staff will be taken after receipt of Final Inquiry Report.

(g) Following measures have been taken to avoid such type of accidents in future :

1. Safety Courses for a week are being held regularly in Signal and Telecom (S&T) training school, Ghaziabad. During the training courses as well as during inspections by supervisors and officers, Electrical Signal Maintainers (ESM)'s are specifically counseled not

to adopt any short cut methods while attending signal failures.

2. During inspections, special checks are carried out to detect short cut method adopted by the staff, if any.

3. Deterrent action, including dismissal and removal, is being taken against persons held responsible.