

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:730
ANSWERED ON:02.12.1999
ARMY TYPE DISCIPLINE IN RAILWAYS
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether after the worst disaster, the Railway Board has decided to impose `Army-type discipline` for achieving a `zero-accident` situation;
- (b) if so, whether during the month of August 1998, the Railway Board had met to review the working of the `most strategic` transport system;
- (c) if so, the main decisions arrived at;
- (d) whether any concrete line of action has been prepared by the Railway Board as to check the discipline in the railway staff to avoid rail accidents in future; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRIDIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) Consequent to the collision of Awadh Assam Express and Brahmaputra Mail on 2nd August 1999 resulting in heavy loss of life, Chairman/Railway Board wrote a detailed letter dated 19th August 1999 on the subject of `Safety on Rails` to all the General Managers, stressing that Indian Railways have to work to a situation where the mistakes by the staff and failures of the assets are eliminated. It was also emphasised that, for providing safe and efficient service, the systems and procedures of the Indian Railways have to be more akin to Army.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) & (e) Yes, Sir. The steps which need to be taken immediately to improve discipline of the railway staff so as to ensure safe movement on Rails, have been brought out in Chairman Railway Board's aforesaid letter dated 19th August 1999 to the General Managers. The same include

(i) More rigid staff discipline norms, including punctual attendance

(ii) Knowledge of rules, mental alertness, availability at duty places and total commitment to the organisation.

(iii) Availability of upto date Instructions with the staff

(iv) Devotion of full time by supervisory officials to their areas of activity, keeping off-line activities to a bare minimum

(v) Appropriate training of railway officials as per prescribed modules at various stages, i.e. Initial Recruitment Training, Refresher Training, Promotional Training and Specialised Training

(vi) Surprise inspections during the night time.