

measures taken to redress the grievances including preventive measures and deterrent action against the persons at fault

Year	No. of complaints	No. of cases where action taken
1993-94	361	322
1994-95	351	323
1995-96	308	268

(c) Improvement in catering service is an on-going and continuous process. Steps include supply of meals in Casseroles; supply of ready to eat fast food items at stations and on trains; installation of Vending Machines to sell hot and cold beverages; under-taking food sample checks by the Medical Deptt. for lab tests to prevent food adulteration etc. training of catering staff at recognised institutions and frequent inspections by officers/staff

(d) and (e). Biscuits manufactured by reputed firms are procured for sale by the Catering Department. Intensive checks are conducted to ensure sale of quality biscuits.

[Translation]

Nasik-Peth-Balsad Line

675. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any demand to lay Nasik-Peth-Balsad railway line; and

(b) if so, the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) Yes Sir

(b) It has not been found possible to consider construction of this line at this stage due to acute constraint of resources

[English]

Train Accidents

676. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA
SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN
SHRI SOHAN BEEH

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the number of train accidents and derailments occurred during last six months till date in each zone;

(b) the main causes of those accidents and derailments;

(c) the number of persons killed and injured therein with the loss of property suffered by the Railways;

(d) the details of compensation provided or to be provided to the victims; and

(e) the remedial steps being taken by the Government to avoid such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) The Zone-wise number of train accidents and derailments during the period 1.1 1996 to 30.6 1996 is as under

Railway	No. of Accidents	No. of derailments
Central	23	17
Eastern	20	14
Northern	29	17
North Eastern	12	06
Northeast Frontier	18	16
Southern	26	20
South Central	27	14
South Eastern	39	33
Western	28	18
Total	222	155

*Provisional

(b) The main causes of the accidents including derailments, were human failure, equipment failure, sabotage, etc

(c) 226 persons lost their lives and 300 sustained injury in the above accidents. This includes 141 killed and 143 injured in level crossing accidents. The approximate cost of damage to Railway property is Rs 33.81 Crores

(d) No compensation has so far been paid. Compensation will be paid soon after the claims are decreed by the concerned Bench of Railway Claims Tribunal

(e) Steps taken to check the accidents are as under

1. The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and important main lines
2. Signalling circuitry is being changed to prevent home signal being lowered till the starter and the advance starter lowered for an earlier train have been put back to 'ON' position.

- 3 Auxiliary warning system for giving advance warning about signals at danger to driver of the running train and stopping the train if the driver does not respond within the pre-determined time interval has already been commissioned on Bombay suburban sections.
- 4 Upgradation of track structure has been done by using heavier rails & concrete sleepers.
- 5 The track is maintained by Tie tamping and ballast clearing machines. Track is also now being laid with track renewal trains and portal cranes.
- 6 For monitoring of the track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being progressively used.
- 7 Maintenance facilities for Coaches & Wagons have been modernised.
- 8 To prevent cases of cold breakage of axle, ROH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for timely detection of cases of flaws developing in the axles.
- 9 Training facilities for drivers, guards and other staff connected with train operation have been modernised. Drivers are being trained on simulators.
- 10 Performance of the staff is constantly monitored. The staff whose knowledge of rules is found deficient are counselled and are sent for refresher training.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion of Agra-Bandikui Line

677 SHRI GANGA RAM KOLI .
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT .

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

- (a) whether the Government postponed conversion of the Agra-Bandikui rail line into broad gauge line,
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor, and
- (c) whether the Government propose to resume this work during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise

(c) Preliminary works are already in progress.

[English]

Revamping of Police/Traffic Police Set-Up in Delhi

678 DR RAMKRISHAN KUSMARIA
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have approved the proposal to revamp the police/Traffic police set up in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) Sanction for the creation of 1102 posts in various ranks in the Delhi Police was accorded on 27.5.96 for better traffic management.

[Translation]

State Pollution Control Boards

680 SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any scheme under consideration of the Government to raise the status of State Pollution Control Boards with the aid of World Bank, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, for strengthening of State Pollution Control Boards, financial assistance under the World Bank funded project is being provided, especially, for the augmentation of infrastructural facilities, human resource development etc.

[English]

Wagons in Tripura

681 SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the number of wagons for Tripura allotted by the Railway for transportation of essential commodities and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Wagons for Tripura unloaded monthwise during