

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.