

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1196
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2004
FRESH INQUIRY IN GODHRA TRAIN FIRE INCIDENT
Deora Shri Milind Murli;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has ordered a fresh inquiry into the Godhra train fire incident;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the inquiry has since been completed;
- (d) if so, the findings of the inquiry;
- (e) whether the Government has consulted legal experts in this regard;
- (f) if so, the advice tendered by them in this regard;
- (g) whether the Government propose to publish the names of the people who were killed in this incident;
- (h) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and (i) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) to (d): Yes, Sir. Government has decided to conduct a departmental enquiry into the causes and exact facts behind the fire in the Sabarmati Express on 27-2-2002 by a High level Committee. The constitution of the High level Committee is under process.

(e) & (f): Yes, Sir. Enquiry can be conducted by a High level Committee.

(g) & (h): Efforts were made by both the Railways and the State Police to ascertain the identities of those killed in the fire. 52 bodies had been identified and ex-gratia paid by the Railways and State Government to their next of kin. 07 bodies have not been identified so far.

(i): Though the responsibility to curb crime on Railways lies with the State Governments, the Railways has taken the following steps to supplement the efforts of the State Governments:

1. Anti-social elements are being removed from Railway premises and trains by Railway Protection Force (RPF).
2. Coach Attendants/Travelling Ticket Examiners are keeping proper watch on the passengers entering/detraining from the coaches and the coaches are properly locked during their run, especially in night hours.
3. FIR forms are made available with the Train Guards/Stations Masters/RPF to facilitate the travelling public to lodge their reports immediately.
4. Sharing of Special Intelligence and Crime Intelligence between RPF and Government Railway Police (GRP) is being done at all levels with a view to take suitable preventive actions.
5. Announcement through Public Address system and Close Circuit Television at important Railway Stations to alert the travelling passengers.
6. To supplement the efforts of the Government Railway Police and the State Governments in maintaining Law and Order and for their better focus on serious crimes, the responsibility for arrest and prosecution of minor offences under the Railways Act, 1989 which affects the normal passengers and the train operations have been vested with the Railway Protection Force by amending the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957 and the Railways Act, 1989. The amended Acts have been brought into force from 1st July, 2004.