

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:663

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2007

ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR RAIL ACCIDENTS

Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that accountability and actual responsibility for rail accidents has been attributed to "human error" quite often instead of investigating into actual causes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of rail accidents occurred during the last three years and out of these accidents, inquiry into how many cases have been completed and how many cases are still pending;

(d) whether the Railways are aware that due to slow progress of inquiry into the accidental cases, the issues begin to blur and fade and investigations become secretative and human error actually become specific individual; and

(e) if so the details thereof with corrective measures to set responsibility on actual cause for the accident not just individual?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) : A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.663 ASKED BY SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 16.8.2007 REGARDING ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR RAIL ACCIDENTS.

(a) & (b): Responsibility for the Railway accident is fixed only after the detailed inquiry into the cause of the accident. The findings of the inquiry report first establishes the cause of the accident before attributing the responsibility for the same.

(c) to (e): During the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, a total of 663 consequential train accidents took place on Indian Railways. Out of which, 67 were inquired into by the Commissioners of Railway Safety and balance 596 were inquired into by the departmental committees. Inquiries into these accidents have been completed except in one case of the year 2006-07 which is still under investigation by the Commissioner of Railway Safety. Most of the accident inquiries are completed within the target time frame and only in exceptional cases it may get delayed due to unavoidable circumstances. However, even such delays cannot be said to result into blurring or fading of the facts as findings are based on the factual material and evidence before the Committee during investigation into the circumstances leading to the occurrence of the accident. The outcome of the inquiry report is further subject to acceptance by a competent authority.