

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:297
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2009
UNMANNED LEVEL CROSSINGS
Maharia Shri Subhash

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the guidelines/yardsticks prepared by the Railways for manning the unmanned Railway crossings;
- (b) whether there has been increase in the number of accidents due to unmanned railway crossings;
- (c) if so, the number of accidents took place on unmanned railway crossings during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken to prevent accidents by manning these unmanned railway crossings?

Answer

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

(a) The current policy for manning of level crossings as follow:-

1. All Level crossings including restricted visibility# cases where Train Vehicle Unit (TVU) is more than 6000.
2. Restricted visibility level crossing where TVU is between 3000-6000.

Level crossings having less than 800 metres visibility for road user/train driver shall be considered of restricted visibility.

(b) The number of unmanned level crossing accidents has decreased from 72 in 2006-07 to 65 in 2007-08 and during the current year from April 2008 to January 2009, such accidents have come down from 57 to 51 in comparison to the corresponding period of the previous year.

(c) Number of consequential train accidents are maintained Zone-wise. Zone-wise, number of unmanned level crossing accidents during the last three years and the current year is as under:-

S. No. Railways 2005-06 2006-07 2007-08 08-09up
to January

01 Central	1	0	0	0
02 Eastern	1	1	1	1
03 East Central	3	0	4	3
04 Northern	16	15	10	0
05 North Eastern	7	5	8	9
06 Northeast	1	2	0	1
Frontier				
07 North Western	7	10	4	10
08 Southern	4	11	6	5
09 South Central	6	5	4	2
10 South Eastern	1	0	5	0
11 Western	3	9	5	8
12 East Coast	3	3	4	4
13 South Western	7	4	8	1
14 West Central	3	1	3	2
15 North Central	1	3	1	2
16 South East	1	3	2	3
Central				
Grand Total	65	72	65	51

(d) Measures taken by Zonal Railways to avert accidents at the unmanned Level Crossings include the following:-

(i) Public awareness programmes and publicity campaigns undertaken regularly to educate the road users for observing safe

practices while negotiating unmanned level crossings. Joint ambush checks with involvement of civil authorities conducted.

(ii) Improvement to the surface of level crossings (LCs) near the railway tracks, approach roads with proper gradient for safe movement of the road vehicle users negotiating the LCs, and providing proper road sign boards at the approaches including 'STOP' boards in English, Hindi and regional language to warn the approaching road vehicle.

(iii) Providing speed breakers/rumble strips as per standards on the approaches to level crossing gates.

(iv) Good quality retro-reflective road sign boards provided at the road approaches for improved visibility during night time.

(v) Level crossings, on reaching the laid down traffic volume criteria of manning, are being progressively manned. Manning Criteria revised in the current Railway Budget for 2008-09 to include larger numbers of unmanned level crossings.

(vi) As a special measure to reduce the number of level crossings, Zonal Railways have been given power to consider and sanction 'Limited Use Subways' costing upto Rs.50 lakhs, and normal height subway costing upto Rs.1.5 crores on double line and 1.25 crores on single line, wherever technically feasible. The effectiveness of these measures can be gauged from the fact that inspite of substantial increase in both road and rail traffic, the accidents have not increased substantially. Bridge/Subway wherever technically feasible, at present on Indian Railways, 547 locations have been identified to be replaced by 'Limited Height Subway'.

(vii) Closure of existing Unmanned Level Crossings- LCs where road traffic is low and nearby LCs also exists, the road traffic is diverted to one of them by provision of approach/link roads; closure of one of the level crossings where two or more level crossings exists in close proximity (within one kilometer). Efforts are ongoing for closure of the identified level crossings in close coordination with the State Governments.