

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:48  
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2010  
ACCIDENTS ON UNMANNED RAILWAY CROSSINGS  
Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar;Sharma Shri Madan Lal

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number of rail accidents which occurred due to unmanned railway crossings during each of the last three years and the current year, Zone-wise;
- (b) the total number of persons died and injured alongwith the compensation given in such rail accidents during the said period;
- (c) whether the Railways are considering to adopt some mechanical or computerized system of alarm at these crossings; and
- (d) if not, the steps being proposed to be taken to prevent accidents at unmanned crossings?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.48 BY SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA AND RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 25-02-2010 REGARDING ACCIDENTS ON UNMANNED RAILWAY CROSSINGS.

(a): Zone-wise and year-wise number of unmanned level crossing accidents occurred during the last three years and the current year from April 2009 to January 2010, is given below:

Railway    Number of Accidents at Unmanned Level Crossings

                  2006-07    2007-08    2008-09    2009-10(April, 2009 to January,2010)  
Central        -   -   -   -

Eastern        1   1   1   -

Northern      15   10   3   11

North Eastern    5   8   11   7

Northeast Frontier 2   -   1   4

Southern 11 6 5 1

South Central 5 4 4 -

South Eastern - 5 1 4

Western 9 5 9 5

East Central - 4 3 3

East Coast 3 4 5 1

North Central 3 1 2 2

North Western 10 4 11 8

South East Central 3 2 3 1

South Western 4 8 1 2

West Central 1 3 2 1

Total 72 65 62 50

(b): The number of persons who lost their lives and suffered injuries in unmanned level crossing accidents during the last three years and in the current year from April 2009 to January 2010, is as under:

2006-07 2007-08 2008-09 April, 2009 to January, 2010.

Deaths 146 148 129 134

Compensation is paid by the Railways based on provisions of the Railway Act when a claim is filed in the Railway Claims Tribunal and a decree is awarded by the Tribunal. Ministry of Railways, however, sometimes pays an ex-gratia amount in unmanned level crossing accidents in rare cases on humanitarian grounds. No compensation has been paid to the road users by the railways under any decree of the Railway Claims Tribunal for accidents at unmanned level crossings.

(c): Train Actuated Warning Device (TAWD) to warn the road users at unmanned level crossings had been tried but the trials have not proved successful due to theft and vandalism of the equipment.

(d): Steps taken by the Railways to prevent accidents at the unmanned level crossings include:

(i) Ensuring availability of basic infrastructure at level crossings which include levelled road surface at crossings, proper road signs at the approaches including 'STOP' boards to warn the road users, speed breakers/rumble strips on the approach roads, whistle boards for the train drivers to whistle while approaching the level crossings and approach roads with proper gradient for safe movement of the road vehicle users negotiating the level crossings,

(ii) Public awareness programmes and publicity campaigns undertaken regularly through various electronic and print media to educate the road users for observing safe practices while negotiating unmanned level crossings. State Governments have also been requested to undertake similar campaigns,

(iii) Joint ambush checks with involvement of civil authorities to check the erring road users,

(iv) Delegation of powers to Zonal Railways for sanctioning 'Limited Use Subways' costing upto Rupees 45 lakhs in each case, based on feasibility and local condition,

(v) Delegation of powers to Zonal Railways for sanctioning of Normal Height Subways costing upto Rupees 1.25 crores for single line and Rs. 1.50 crores for double line,

(vi) Manning of unmanned level crossings in a phased manner upon their qualifying the laid down criteria for manning. A policy decision has also been taken to increase the pace of manning on Indian Railways. Manning of around 3000 level crossings was approved in 2009-10 and a further 1000 level crossings will be taken up next year.