

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6759  
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2010  
RAILWAY SAFETY  
Karunakaran Shri P.

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of functioning of the railway safety as an autonomous body under civil aviation sector;
- (b) whether there was any recommendation to strengthen the commission of railway safety activities;and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) The Commission of Railway Safety deals with the matters pertaining to safety of rail travel and train operation and is charged with certain statutory functions laid down in the Railways Act, 1989. These functions are inspectorial, investigatory and advisory in nature. The main task of the Commission of Railway Safety is to direct, advise and caution the Railway executives with a view to ensure that all reasonable precautions are taken in regard to soundness of rail construction and safety of train operation. Similar role has also been assigned to the Commission in relation to Metro Railways.

(b) & (c) Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture in its 98th Reports on 'Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in the 83rd Report on the 'functioning of the Commission of Railway Safety' have, interalia, made the following recommendations:-

i) The proposal for making the Commission an autonomous body should be expedited within a fixed timeframe and it should also include the aspect of comprehensive cadre review so that the impartiality and independence of the Commission is ensured.

ii) Ministry of Railways should not reject or overrule any recommendation made by the Commission without a meeting between the Chairman Railway Board and the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety.

iii) The Commission should submit half yearly reports to the Committee about the status of its recommendations indicating the discussions, if any called by the Ministry of Railways on the issue of difference of opinion.

iv) The Ministry of Railways should seek the concurrence of the Commission of Railway Safety before the introduction of any new passenger train.

v) Suitable amendments in the Indian Railways Act, 1989 be incorporated to facilitate smooth and expeditious progress of inquiry proceedings and immediate publication of Inquiry Repots.

vi) The Commission of Railway Safety should be accorded desirable status that commands the respect of the Railway Authorities and public.

vii) The officers of the Commission should be exposed to technological advancement.