

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2032

ANSWERED ON:05.08.2010

COLLISION OF UTTARBANGA EXPRESS WITH VANANCHAL EXPRESS

Abdulrahman Shri ;Chauhan Shri Sanjay Singh;Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Kumar Shri Vishwa Mohan;Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar;Shekhar Shri Neeraj

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

- (a) whether there was an accident wherein Uttarbanga Express collided with Vananchal Express recently;
- (b) if so, the number of passengers died in said accident and the compensation provided to the relatives of deceased in said accident;
- (c) whether any inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the cause of the said accident;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the total number of rail accidents taken place so far during the current year and the steps taken by the Railways to prevent such accidents in future?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2032 BY S/SHRI SANJAY SINGH CHAUHAN, ABDUL RAHMAN, RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY, VISHWA MOHAN KUMAR, D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA AND NEERAJ SHEKHAR TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 05.08.2010 REGARDING COLLISION OF UTTARBANGA EXPRESS WITH VANANCHAL EXPRESS.

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. On 19.07.2010 at 02.05 hrs., while the train No.3404 Dn. (Bhagalpur-Ranchi) Vananchal Express was leaving from Platform No.4 of Sainthia station of Howrah Division of Eastern Railway, 3148 Dn. (New Cooch Behar-Sealdah) Uttar Banga Express collided with it from the rear. In this incident, 65 persons lost their lives, 45 suffered grievous injuries and 46 others suffered simple injuries. Ministry of Railways has ordered payment of ex-gratia of Rs.5 lakh to the next of kin of each deceased. Employment to one member of the family of the deceased persons has also been announced. Compensation shall be additionally payable to the next of kin of each deceased on the basis of claims filed by them in the Railway Claims Tribunal and decree passed by the Tribunal.

(c) & (d): The cause of the incident is under investigation from all possible angles. Statutory inquiry into the above incident is also being conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Eastern Circle.

(e): During the current year from April to 26th July, 2010, 26 consequential train accidents have taken place on Indian Railways excluding cases of trespassing by road users at unmanned level crossings.

Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continuing basis by the Railways to enhance safety. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signaling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training of officials and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Safety devices introduced to prevent accidents include provision of Anti-collision Device (ACD), Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS), Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), LED Signals and Vigilance Control Device (VCD), etc.