

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:688

ANSWERED ON:11.11.2010

TRAIN COLLISION

Kumar Shri Vishwa Mohan;Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada;Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Shri Radha Mohan

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

- (a) the number of accidents on unmanned railway crossing in 2010, till date;
- (b) whether Rajdhani Express had a collision at unmanned railway crossing of Katihar (Bihar) during October, 2010;
- (c) if so, the number of casualties therein and details of compensation paid to the affected persons;
- (d) whether there is a proposal of installing the system of automatic closing/opening of gate on such unmanned crossing; and
- (e) if not, the effective steps taken by the Railways to minimize the case of accidents on unmanned crossing?

**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. 688 BY SHRIMATI JAYA PRADA, SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH, SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR AND SHRI VISHWA MOHAN KUMAR TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 11.11.2010 REGARDING TRAIN COLLISION.

(a): In the current year from January to October 2010, 41 unfortunate incidents at unmanned level crossings took place on Indian Railways.

(b) & (c): Yes, Madam. On 09.10.2010, while the train number 2435 Guwahati - New Delhi Rajdhani Express was on run between Dandkhora and Katihar stations of Katihar Division of Northeast Frontier Railway, one auto-rickshaw dashed against train engine at unmanned level crossing No. KM 5 resulting in loss of lives of 08 persons (all occupants of the auto-rickshaw).

No liability accrues to the Railways in case of dashing of road vehicles with trains at unmanned level crossings in which railway passengers are not involved. As an exception and as a humanitarian gesture, Ministry of Railways has ordered for payment of enhanced ex-gratia of Rs. 2 lakh to next of kin of each deceased person in this incident.

(d): No, Madam. There is no proposal of installing the system of automatic closing/opening of gate on the above unmanned level crossing No. KM 5. However, this unmanned level crossing has been sanctioned for manning during the current year 2010-11.

(e): Steps taken by the Railways to prevent such incidents 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) As a special measure, powers have been delegated to the Zonal Railways to sanction new works of road over bridges and under bridges (Limited/Normal Height Subways) costing upto Rs. 2.50 crores in each case,

(v) Manning of unmanned level crossings in a phased manner upon their qualifying the laid down criteria for manning. Criteria of manning has also been revised to make more number of unmanned level crossings eligible for manning. A policy decision has also been taken to increase the pace of manning on Indian Railways.