

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1308
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2011
VANANCHAL UTTARBANGA TRAIN COLLISION
Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Commissioner of Railway Safety has submitted the provisional findings of the Vananchal Express-Uttarbanga Express collision incident;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the details of the action so far taken by the Railways against the person found responsible for said incident; and
- (d) the details of the steps taken by the Railways to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION 1308 BY SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI AND SHRI KISHNBHAI V.PATEL TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 03.03.2011 REGARDING VANANCHAL-UTTARBANGA TRAIN COLLISION.

(a) & (b): In the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), Eastern Circle's provisional conclusion, it has been observed that complete inaction on the part of Loco Pilot and Assistant Loco Pilot simultaneously in the accident is a matter of intrigue, more so when the train had a stoppage hardly few minutes before.

(c): The Final Report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Eastern Circle is awaited. Action would be taken against the officials responsible for this accident, if any, after receipt of the Final Report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety.

(d): 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 up gradation 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. It is now proposed to extend ACD to 4 more zonal Railways, making it operational in 8 out of 17 zonal Railways.

However, for the type of collision as had occurred at Sainthia, necessary steps to prevent recurrence can be considered only after the Final Report is available.