

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:852

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2011

RAIL ACCIDENTS IN ASSAM AND U.P

Ajmal Shri Badruddin;Bhoi Shri Sanjay;Jeyadurai Shri S. R.;Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai;Pakkirappa Shri S.;Panda Shri Prabodh;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash;Ramasubbu Shri S.;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati;Siricilla Shri Rajaiah;Sugumar Shri K. ;Tarai Shri Bibhu Prasad;Yadav Shri Ranjan Prasad

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways are aware of the two train accidents in Assam and Uttar Pradesh which took place in the month of July, 2011;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the casualties reported therein;
- (c) the details of the compensation to the next of kin of those died and to the injured announced by the Railways;
- (d) whether the Railways have ordered any inquiry into the said accidents; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to prevent the recurrence of such accidents and to improve the safety and security of passengers travelling in trains?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 852 BY SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO, SHRI ANAND PRAKASH PARANJPE, SHRI AHIR VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MAADAM, SHRI S. S. RAMASUBBU, SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA, SHRI BIBHU PRASAD TARAI, PROF. (DR.) RANJAN PRASAD YADAV, SHRI S. R. JEYADURAI, SHRI PRABODH PANDA, SHRI RAJAIAH SIRICILLA, SHRI SANJAY BHOI, SHRI SUGUMAR K. AND SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 04.08.2011 REGARDING RAIL ACCIDENTS IN ASSAM AND U. P.

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. On 10.07.2011 at 12.20 hrs., while the Train No. 12311 Kalka Mail was passing through Malwan station of Allahabad Division of North Central Railway, its locomotive and 15 coaches derailed blocking both up and down lines. In this unfortunate accident 70 persons lost their lives, 87 suffered grievous injuries and 166 suffered simple injuries.

In the second incident, on 10.07.2011 at about 20.15 hrs., while the train No. 15640 Guwahati- Puri Express was on run between Rangiya and Ghograpar stations of Rangiya Division of Northeast Frontier Railway, there was an explosion on the track and due to its impact, the locomotive along with four coaches derailed and four other coaches were thrown off the track. In this incident, no fatality took place; 03 persons suffered grievous injuries and 13 others received simple injuries.

(c): On humanitarian grounds, enhanced ex-gratia amount of Rs. 5 lakhs each to the next of the kin of the deceased, Rs. 1 lakh each to the grievously injured and Rs. 25000/- to each simple injured person has been announced in the case of derailment of Kalka Mail. So far, an amount of Rs. 1.32 crore (approx.) has been disbursed towards ex-gratia to the victims of this incident.

Enhanced ex-gratia amount of Rs. 1 lakh each has been announced to the grievously injured and Rs. 10000/- to each simple injured in the case of derailment of Guwahati - Puri Express. Ex-gratia amount totalling to Rs. 4.30 lakhs has been disbursed to the victims of this incident.

In addition, compensation shall also be payable to these victims on the basis of claims to be filed by them in the Railway Claims Tribunal and decrees awarded by the Tribunal.

(d) & (e): A statutory inquiry into the derailment of Kalka Mail is being conducted by the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety (CCRS), under the Ministry of Civil Aviation based at Lucknow.

Statutory inquiry into the derailment of Guwahati - Puri Express has been conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Northeast Frontier Circle, under the Ministry of Civil Aviation based at Kolkata. The CRS in his Preliminary Report has concluded that the Derailment was caused due to an act of train wrecking by planting certain explosive device/bomb in the track and triggering the same by a remote control or otherwise in the face of the approaching train by some unknown person(s). Accordingly, the cause of the accident has been attributed to 'Sabotage'.

Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continuing basis to prevent accidents and to enhance safety. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling 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/systems being introduced to prevent accidents include provision of Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), LED Signals, Vigilance Control Device (VCD), Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS), Anti Collision Device (ACD), etc.

Policing in Railways is a state subject. Security of passengers including prevention of crime, registration of cases and maintenance of law and order in railway premises is the statutory responsibility of the State Governments concerned which they discharge through their Government Railway Police (GRP) and Civil Police. Railway Protection Force is supplementing the efforts of Government Railway Police by deploying staff for escorting important trains in vulnerable sections. Close coordination is being maintained by the Railways with the GRP and Civil Police to improve security of railway passengers.