

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:173  
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2011  
RELIEF AND RESCUE OPERATIONS  
Karwariya Shri Kapil Muni

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

- (a) the standard average time prescribed and actual time taken for commencement of relief and rescue operations in the event of a rail accident;
- (b) whether incidents of inordinate delay in commencing relief and rescue operations have been reported in the recent past;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Railways propose to constitute an organised and modern Task Force for relief and rescue operations; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the effective steps being taken in this regard ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 173 BY SHRI KAPIL MUNI KARWARIYA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 11.08.2011 REGARDING RELIEF AND RESCUE OPERATIONS

(a): The Railways have a network of rail-mounted relief and rescue equipments i.e., 208 Accident Relief Trains(ART) and 163 Accident Relief Medical Vans (ARMV) and 320 stationary Accident Relief Medical Equipments (ARMEs) placed at identified locations, which cover the entire rail network of Indian Railways. Immediately on receipt of information about an accident, involving or likely to involve injuries or deaths, Accident Relief Medical Vans (ARMVs) are rushed to the site of the accident along with doctors and para medical staff and rescue workers and engineers. The target time for dispatch of ARMVs is a maximum of 30 minutes from their ordering. The target time for dispatch of ARTs is a maximum of 60 minutes from their ordering. ARMVs and ARTs are given precedence over all other trains while proceeding to the site of the accident so that these can reach accident site within shortest possible time. Many a times Railways doctors, paramedics and other officials reach the site of the accident by road depending upon accessibility of the site by road.

Relief and rescue operations, however, start immediately with the help of on board staff, available other railway staff and local people, civil administration and other agencies etc.

(b): No, Madam. Relief and rescue operations are started immediately with whatever type of help is available at or near accident site and all efforts are made to reach the site in minimum possible time with available railway resources for quick relief and rescue operations. The Relief and Rescue operations is given first priority and monitored at divisional/headquarter level and in many cases directly by Railway Board, to ensure quick rescue and relief operations. For dealing with major accidents and other types of natural and man-made disasters, Disaster Management (DM) Plans of all divisions, zonal railways and Ministry of Railways have been prepared where resources mobilisations from all quarters have been documented for quick action by various Railway Officials.

(c): Does not arise.

(d) & (e): Indian Railways already has well organised task force in form of dedicated and trained officials including doctors, paramedics, engineers, etc., for Accident Relief Trains (ARTs) and Accident Relief Medical Vans (ARMVs) for relief and rescue operations. They are provided with modern equipment to carry out these operations. The equipments are regularly reviewed for addition and upgradation to increase their efficiency. Further, consequent to the Disaster Management (DM) Act coming into force, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has been constituted at different locations throughout the country. NDRF is a force specialised in handling rescue and relief operations in all types of disasters in the country and Railways take their help in major accidents involving passenger trains.