

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:489

ANSWERED ON:10.05.2012

TRAIN MISHAP IN MUMBAI

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Nirupam Shri Sanjay Brijkishorilal

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have taken note of the recent signal malfunctioning and the reported accidents in the suburban area of Mumbai;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the causes ascertained for the said mishap;
- (c) the ex-gratia and compensation amount that have been announced by the Railways in this regard;
- (d) whether the Railways have initiated any inquiry on the mishap;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken/being taken by the Railways to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MUKUL ROY)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 489 BY SHRI SANJAY BRIJKISHOR LAL NIRUPAM AND SHRI B.B. PATIL TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 10.05.2012 REGARDING TRAIN MISHAP IN MUMBAI.

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): On April 18, 2012, a fire took place at Kurla Signalling Cabin in Mumbai at about 00.05 hours, which was put off by Railway staff along with personnel of Fire Brigade at 00.30 hours. In the fire, a part of Route Relay Interlocking System at Kurla was damaged causing partial nonfunctioning of Signalling system and affected associated Traffic movements. Despite extensive damage to the system, restoration was done very fast and trains started moving within 4-5 hours progressively with restricted speed.

Prima facie, the incident took place due to damage of underground DC (Direct Current) Traction (1500Volts) cable during digging work for laying of Signalling cables causing heavy leakage of current from power cable to Signalling cable resulting in damage to Signalling system due to fire. A high level enquiry has been ordered and action will be taken against those found guilty.

On 19.4.2012, another incident of passengers falling from running local suburban train occurred in Mulund- Nahur section due to overcrowding on account of reduction in number of Suburban services due to Signal Cable damage on the previous day. In this incident, 03 people died and 30 were injured. Checks reveal no lack of regular maintenance and/or malfunctioning of Signalling system.

(c): Railways have announced ex-gratia of Rs. 2 Lakh to the next of kin of each of the deceased person in this incident, as a special case. Steps have been taken by the Railway for payment of the aforesaid amount to the next of kin of each deceased person, an amount of Rs.5000 as ex-gratia to each grievously injured person and an amount of Rs.500 to each person with simple injury.

Compensation for death/injury in train accident/untoward incidents is decided by the Railway Claims Tribunal after a claim for compensation is filed in the Tribunal and the amount of compensation is paid by the Railway administration after satisfying the decree so awarded by the Tribunal in favour of the claimant. No claim for compensation for death/injury in this incident has been decreed by the Tribunal so far.

(d): Yes, madam.

(e): To inquire into the incident of fire on 18.4.2012, Railways have constituted a three member high level officers committee comprising Chief Safety Officer, Chief Signal Engineer and Chief Electrical Distribution Engineer of Central Railway. Finalization of report after detailed investigation into the fire incident by the committee is in progress.

To inquire into the incident of falling down of passengers from local suburban trains on 19.4.2012, Central Railway has constituted an inquiry committee of Divisional Officers. Inquiry committee has submitted its report and the same is under examination.

(f): Instructions regarding Cable laying procedures have been reiterated to all Zonal Railways to prevent recurrence of such incidents of damaging of underground cables during execution of Railway works in future. Further action, as necessary, shall be taken on recommendation of inquiry committee.

Signalling structures provided along track side are regularly checked jointly by concerned officials. Clearances of signalling structures located along track side have been again checked and found to be as per laid down standards.