

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:18

ANSWERED ON:19.11.2009

ACCIDENTS AT UNMANNED LEVEL CROSSINGS

Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada;Singh Alias Pappu Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) whether the Gonda-Ayodhya passenger train rammmed into a truck at an unmanned level crossing on 01 November, 2009 resulting in death of several persons;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of unmanned railway level crossings still existing and which are posing danger to the crossing vehicles; and
- (d) the time bound action plan prepared by the Railways to man the unmanned level crossings?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.18 BY SHRI UDAY SINGH AND SHRIMATI JAYA PRADA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 19.11.2009 REGARDING ACCIDENTS AT UNMANNED LEVEL CROSSINGS.

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. On 01.11.2009 at 13.05 hrs., one truck loaded with sand dashed against engine of train No. 441 Up Gorakhpur-Ayodhya Passenger at Unmanned Level Crossing No.15/C in block section Mankapur - Katra on Lucknow Division of North Eastern Railway. Despite provision of basic infrastructure of warning signs at the level crossing and whistling by the Loco Pilot before approaching the above unmanned level crossing, the accident occurred due to the negligence and rash driving of the truck driver. This unfortunate incident resulted into deaths of 18 persons, grievous injuries to 21 persons and simple injuries to 16 persons. Statutory inquiry is being conducted by Commissioner of Railway Safety, North Eastern Circle. Considering the gravity of the human suffering, the Ministry of Railways has announced an ex-gratia amount of Rs.5 lakhs to the next of kin of each deceased, Rs.1 lakh to each grievously injured and Rs.10,000 to each simple injured.

(c) & (d): As on 01.04.2009, the number of unmanned level crossings on Indian Railways is 16976. Railways have laid down guidelines for manning of unmanned level crossings. All level crossings where Train Vehicle Units (TVUs) are more than 6000 and those level crossings having TVUs between 3000 and 6000 with restricted visibility of 800 metres or less qualify for manning. The unmanned level crossings qualifying the criteria for manning are being manned progressively on continuous basis.

In the year 2000, there were approximately 20,000 unmanned level crossings on Indian Railways, out of which over 3,000 have already been manned till date. During 2009-10, 304 additional unmanned level crossings had been earlier planned to be manned. The pace of manning is now to be stepped up so as to reach a level of manning of 1000 unmanned level crossings in a year as per a policy decision taken by the Railway Ministry.