

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:27
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2012
RELIEF AND RESCUE OPERATIONS
Das Shri Ram Sundar

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the existing mechanism for rescue and relief operations in the Railways;
- (b) whether lack of coordination amongst various agencies / stakeholders jeopardizes the Railway Disaster Management Plan due to which the same is not fully prepared to handle rail disasters; and
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto and the remedial measures taken/being taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MUKUL ROY)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) To (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 27 BY SHRI RAM SUNDAR DAS TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 09.08.2012 REGARDING RELIEF AND RESCUE OPERATIONS.

(a) The Railways have a network of Accident Relief Trains (ARTs) and Accident Relief Medical Vans (ARMVs) stationed at identified locations, which cover the entire rail network of Indian Railways. These ARMVs and ARTs are well equipped with rescue and relief equipments required to be used at the accident site. On receiving information of an accident, the ARMVs and ARTs are dispatched to the accident site along with railway personnel trained in relief and rescue operations.

Immediately on receipt of information about an accident, involving or likely to involve injuries or deaths, ARMVs are rushed to the site of the accident. These ARMVs carry medical equipments, doctors, paramedics and other officials for prompt medical relief. These also carry emergency tools for extricating the injured persons and the deceased from the debris, if required. ARTs carrying equipments and staff to deal with relief, rescue and restoration are dispatched from the locations, where these are stationed, to the accident site. ARMVs and ARTs are given precedence over all other trains while proceeding to the site of the accident. Many a time 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. 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 and well coordinated efforts.

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.

(b) No, Madam. Systems have been put in place to ensure proper coordination among various agencies / stake holders through the Disaster Management (DM) Plans. The DM Plan of Indian Railways is comprehensive and fully prepared to handle various types of disasters. The Disaster Management Plans at Divisional level, Zonal level and at Railway Board level are dovetailed and integrated with each other. The DM plans have been prepared to ensure proper coordination and mutual cooperation of railway authorities with other government authorities as well as non-government organisations for pooling all available resources for handling of disasters.

(c) Does not arise.