

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4540

ANSWERED ON:20.12.2012

TRAIN INCIDENTS

Choudhary Shri Bhudeo;Kumar Shri P.;Singh Shri Radha Mohan

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in a recent incident of firing had taken place at the Shahdara junction in the Mahananda Express and in November, 2012, an AC coach in G.T. Express-12615 had caught fire;
- (b) if so, the details of these two incidents and the number of persons killed/injured in each of these incidents;
- (c) whether the Railways have initiated inquiries about these incidents and if so, the separate details of each of these incidents; and
- (d) the details of the steps being taken to prevent such incidents in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4540 BY SHRI BHUDEO CHOUDHARY, SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH AND SHRI P. KUMAR TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 20.12.2012 REGARDING TRAIN INCIDENTS.

(a) and (b): On 30.11.2012 an incident of firing took place in Mahananda Express when it was running between Ghaziabad and Shahadara Railway Stations, in which Shri Kifayatulla, CIT/HQ/Moradabad Division of Northern Railway was injured. He was admitted to GTB Hospital Shahadara where he succumbed to his injuries during treatment. On the same date (30.11.2012), while Train No. 12615 Chennai- New Delhi G.T Express was approaching Sithouli station on Jhansi –Gwalior section of Jhansi Division of North Central Railway, Train Ticket Examiner and Air Condition Mechanic noticed fire in the dustbin of one 3AC coach (B-1) and stopped the train by pulling Alarm Chain. In the meantime, fire also spread over to the next 3 AC coach (B-2). No casualty took place in this incident. Passengers of the affected coaches were evacuated safely. Fire brigade was called at 02.15 hrs. which reached the site at 02.40 hrs. and the fire was finally extinguished.

(c) In the incident of firing in Mahananda Express, Government Railway Police(GRP)/ Ghaziabad has registered a case vide Case Crime No 454/2012 dated 30.11.2012 under section 304 Indian Penal Code. In the incident of fire in G.T Express, Senior Administrative Grade level Departmental Inquiry Committee has been constituted by the Railways to inquire into the above incident.

(d) In so far as crime in Railways is concerned, its prevention, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Police, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP) of the State concerned. As such the cases of crime against travelling passengers on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police. The criminals arrested in such crimes are prosecuted by the Government Railway Police which functions directly under the State Governments concerned. As regards prevention of fire incidents in trains, the following measures are being taken by the Railways:-

Indian Railways have always endeavored to enhance fire worthiness of coaches by using fire retardant furnishing materials to mitigate effect of fire such as Compreg Board/ PVC for coach flooring, laminated sheets for roof, ceiling wall and partition paneling, Rexene and cushioning material for seats and berths, FRP Windows and UIC Vestibule, etc.

Guard-cum-Brake Van, AC Coaches and Pantry Cars in all Trains are provided with portable fire extinguishers to cater for emergencies due to fire accidents.

Improved materials for electrical fittings and fixtures such as MCB, light fittings, terminal boards, connectors, etc., are being used progressively

Detailed instructions have been issued to zonal railways for observance of safe practice in handling of pantry cars and for ensuring periodical inspection of electrical and LPG fittings in the pantry cars.

Intensive publicity campaigns to prevent the travelling public from carrying inflammable goods are regularly undertaken.

With a view to improve fire safety in running trains, a pilot project for provision of Comprehensive Fire and Smoke Detection System has been taken up in one rake of Rajdhani Express on East Coast Railway. Similar automatic fire alarm system in 20 more rakes for extended field trails has also been decided.

Two separate Fire Safety Audit Teams have been constituted recently to plan fire safety audits.

Instructions issued for prevention of loading of offensive, contraband, dangerous and inflammable articles in luggage vans and SLRs and drives also launched for this purpose to ensure implementation.

Joint ambush checks with the involvement of RPF to keep a vigil on inflammable articles in station area as well as to prevent carriage of inflammable articles in passenger trains.