

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2926
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2013
RAIL FRACTURES
Mahato Shri Narahari; Roy Shri Nripendra Nath

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways are facing problems of rail fractures particularly in the northern part of the country ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the total number of cases of rail fractures reported in the country during the last three years and the damage caused as a result thereof, year and zone-wise;
- (c) whether the Railways have conducted any study and analysis in this regard;
- (d) if so, the main findings thereof;
- (e) whether the quality of rails procured by the Railways is also one of the major factors for such fractures; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Railways in this regard ?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, Madam. Railways are facing some problems of rail fracture in most parts of the country.
- (b) Total numbers of rail fractures in last three years and in current year zone-wise and consequential train accidents are given at Appendix.
- (c) Yes, Madam. Detailed study and analysis in this regard is done in Research Design and Standard Organisation (RDSO), Lucknow.
- (d) Main findings are:
 - (i) Reduced ductility and impact strength of 90 UTS rail at welded locations.
 - (ii) Lowering of ambient temperature during winter season induces tensile stresses in rails.
- (e) No, Madam. The rails are manufactured in Bhilai Steel Plant as per the requirement of existing rail specifications fixed by the railways.
- (f) The efforts are being made by railways to further improve fracture toughness and weldability of rails by improving metallurgical and mechanical properties of rails.