

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:800

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2013

ACCIDENTS AT LEVEL CROSSINGS

Jakhar Shri Badri Ram ;Kumar Shri P.;Sugumar Shri K.

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

- (a) whether there is considerable loss of life and property as a result of accidents occurring frequently at unmanned level crossings;
- (b) if so, the details of such major accidents during the last three years, zone-wise;
- (c) the details of compensation provided to the victims of these accidents and the loss to the railway property;
- (d) whether there is any time bound proposal for deploying gatemen at all the unmanned crossings; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the other measures being taken in this regard?

**Answer**

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 800 BY SHRI SUGUMAR K., SHRI P. KUMAR AND SHRI BADRI RAM JAKHAR TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 08.08.2013 REGARDING ACCIDENTS AT LEVEL CROSSINGS.

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Year-wise and zone-wise number of major incidents at unmanned level crossings causing loss of lives of five or more persons during the last three years i.e. from 2010-11 to 2012-13, is given below:

Railway	Number of major incidents at unmanned level crossings	Loss of lives
2010-11		
North Western	2	13
South Central	1	5
Southern	1	5
Northeast Frontier	1	8
2011-12		
East Central	3	34
North Eastern	3	60
Northern	1	6
North Western	1	5
South Central	1	5
Southern	1	5
2012-13		
North Eastern	1	6
East Coast	1	14
North Western	1	7
Southern	1	5
Northern	1	5
Central	1	5
Western	1	6

(c): Loss of railway property in the above major incidents at unmanned level crossings during the last three years i.e. 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13, has been estimated to 0.52 lakh, ` 28.67 lakh and ` 20.07 lakh, respectively.

Railway has no statutory liability under the Railways Act, 1989 or Claims Tribunal Act, 1987, for payment of compensation in case of accidents at unmanned level crossings caused due to negligence of road vehicle users in which railway passengers are not involved. However, the victims or their dependents can claim compensation by moving Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT)/Courts of law and the compensation is paid if any contributory negligence is proved on the part of the Railway Administration. The amount of compensation paid by the railways to the victims of incidents at unmanned level crossings during the last three years, i.e. 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13, is as under:-

Year Amount of compensation paid in incidents at  
unmanned level crossings (` in lakhs)

	On account of Death	On account of Injury
2010-11	17.41	2.48
2011-12	2.22	0
2012-13	10.88	0.51

(d) & (e): It has emerged from the analysis of pattern of accidents that manning alone of unmanned level crossings is not an ideal solution. Accordingly, Railways have decided to progressively eliminate all unmanned level crossings by:

Closure - Closing unmanned level crossings having NIL/Negligible Train Vehicle Unit (TVU).

Merger - Merger of unmanned level crossing gates to nearby manned or unmanned gates or subway or Road Under Bridge (RUB) or Road Over Bridge (ROB) by construction of diversion road.

Provision of Subways/RUBs

Manning – The unmanned level crossings which cannot be eliminated by above means will be progressively manned based on rail-road traffic volume, visibility conditions.

Hon'ble Minister of Railways during his Budget Speech 2013-14 has proposed for elimination of 10,797 Level Crossings (LC) during the 12th Plan and not adding any new LC to the Indian Railway System henceforth. Elimination of all the unmanned level crossings is a gigantic task and involves lot of manpower, resources and budgetary support. It is a continuous process and is done as per need, inter-se priority of works. All efforts are being made to ensure compliance of Budget announcement subject to availability of funds and co-operation of State Government, particularly, in getting consent of closure of level crossings and undertaking to maintain road and drainage in future for subways.