

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:128

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2013

MEASURES TO ELIMINATE LEVEL CROSSINGS

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Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of unmanned level crossings in the country with special reference to Odisha, Jharkhand and Maharashtra along with the total number of level crossings closed during the last three years and the current year zone and year-wise;
- (b) the number of accidents occurred due to unmanned level crossings during the said period in the country including Jharkhand and Maharashtra, zone and year-wise;
- (c) whether the Railways have set up any high level safety Committee to suggest measures to eliminate all level crossings (manned and unmanned);
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the recommendations of the Committee and the reaction of the Railways thereto; and
- (e) whether Railways have sought a larger share from the Central Road Fund into the Railway Road Safety Fund to eliminate the level crossing, if so the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Railways to eliminate level crossing and check the recurrence of the incidents of accidents on tracks in the country in future?

Answer

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

(a) As on 01.04.2013, there were 12,582 unmanned level crossings in the country. State-wise details are enclosed as Appendix-I.

Total 3,026 level crossings (manned + unmanned) have been closed during the last three years and the current year i.e. 2010-11 to 2013-14 (upto Oct'13). Zone-wise details are enclosed as Appendix-II.

(b) Zone-wise and year-wise number of consequential incidents at unmanned level crossings caused due to negligence of road vehicle users on Indian Railways including the states of Jharkhand and Maharashtra during the last three years and the current year i.e. from 2010-11 to 2013-14 (upto Oct'13) is enclosed as Appendix-III.

(c) & (d) A High Level Safety Review Committee was constituted by Ministry of Railways under the Chairmanship of Dr. Anil Kakodkar, former Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission to go into all technical and technology related aspects in connection with safe running of trains services in the country. The Committee has submitted its report to Ministry of Railways on 17.02.2012. The Committee has made 106 recommendations in their report including elimination of level crossings. The recommendations of the Committee are presently under examination in the Ministry of Railways.

(e) Steps taken by Railways for larger share from Central Road Fund (CRF):

Ministry of Railway has made numerous efforts to generate additional funds to carry out various road safety works including the elimination of LCs as under:

Minister of Railways has written a letter to Finance Minister to provide fund to the tune of Rs. 5,000 crores per year for next 7 years from the Central Road Fund (CRF) by suitably amending the CRF Act.

A Cabinet Note seeking approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) was moved for enhancement of Cess on diesel and petrol each by Rs. 0.20 per litre to take it to Rs. 2.20 per litre as against the existing Rs. 2.00 per litre and its distribution to Ministry of Railways as an additionality over the distribution being done as per the existing formula for providing requisite funds to Ministry of Railways for undertaking works for time-bound elimination of level crossings.

Above proposal would have been generated additional fund to the tune of Rs. 1829 crore per annum over and above the present allocation (Rs. 1050 crores per annum), even with this additional allocation of fund, it will take minimum 13-15 years to complete the sanctioned works. However, Prime Minister's Office has asked Ministry of Railways to withdraw the Cabinet Note.

Steps taken by Railways to eliminate level crossings (Manned & Unmanned):

In order to take forward the recommendations for elimination of LC, Ministry of Railways have decided to progressively eliminate all level crossings by closure/merger/ROBs/RUBs/manning.

Elimination of all these 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, availability of funds and co-operation of State Government, particularly, in getting consent of closure of level crossing and undertaking to maintain road and drainage in future for subways.

Steps taken by Railways to check the recurrence of incidence of accident at level crossings:

Various steps have been taken by the railways to prevent accidents at level crossings which include.

- # ensuring availability of basic infrastructure at these level crossings.

- # public awareness and publicity campaigns through electronic and print media, mass messaging (SMSs) to educate the road users.

- # joint ambush checks with involvement of civil authorities to penalize the erring road users.

provision of subway at technically feasible locations, construction of diversion and road upto adjacent level crossing/grade separators and construction of ROBs/RUBs/subways etc.