

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:197

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2013

RAIL ACCIDENTS

Roy Shri Arjun;Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan)

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a): whether the Railways have proposed to make the public inquiry reports of rail accidents in future;
- (b): if so, the details thereof;
- (c): whether the permission of higher railway authorities are mandatory for the publication of reports;
- (d): if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (e): whether the names of the persons/officials responsible for the accidents are likely to be published in the inquiry reports and if so, the details thereof and if not reasons therefor?

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.197 BY SHRI ARJUN RAY AND SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 05.12.2013 REGARDING RAIL ACCIDENTS.

(a): No, Madam.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) & (d): All major Railway accidents are enquired by Commissioners of Railway Safety (CRSs) under Ministry of Civil Aviation. CRS's preliminary report is made public immediately after its release by CRS. Final accident report of CRS is made public by the Commission of Railway Safety after receiving communication from Ministry of Railways towards action taken by the Ministry of Railways on the findings/recommendations contained in CRS' report. The publication of CRS' report is made according to Section 5 of the Statutory Investigation into Railway Accidents Rules, 1998. As per this provision, "Recommendations in regards to the publication of reports shall be made by the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety and Railway Board (Ministry of Railways) informed accordingly. In case the Railway Board has reservations on the recommendations of the Chief Commissioner, the matter shall be finally decided by the Central Government (Ministry of Civil Aviation)."

(e): The Ministry of Civil Aviation, under which the Commission of Railway Safety functions, has revised the procedure for investigation of Railway accidents. As per this, examination of role of individuals and apportioning of responsibility by name will not be part of accident investigation by Commissioners. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has reasoned that since there will be no reference to persons responsible for accident, the publication of final report can be done immediately without waiting for prosecution of charged employee.