

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:234

ANSWERED ON:06.02.2014

FIRE IN TRAINS

Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Shivanagouda Shri Shivaramagouda

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of persons were reportedly charred to death and injured in the recent incidents of fire in non-AC coaches of Bandra-Dehradun Express, AC coaches of Bangalore-Nanded Express and Delhi-Ajmer Shatabdi Express;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have inquired into the fire in bogies of these three trains and has fixed responsibility in this regard;

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and

(e) whether the Railways have announced compensation to the families of the deceased and those who were injured and if so, the details thereof in each of the aforesaid incidents?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.234 BY SHRI SHIVARAMA GOUDA AND SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 06.02.2014 REGARDING FIRE IN TRAINS.

(a) & (b) On 28.12.2013 at 03.45 hours, while Train No.16594 (Bangalore-Nanded) Hazur Sahib Nanded Express was on run in the block section between Sri Satya Sai Prasanthi Nilayam and Basampalle stations of South Western Railway, one of its 3 tier AC coach (B-1) caught fire. In this incident, 26 passengers lost their lives, 5 passengers suffered grievous injuries and 1 passenger suffered simple injuries.

In the second incident, on 08.01.2014 at 02.30 hours, while Train No.19019 Up Bandra-Dehradun Express was on run in the block section between Dahanu Road and Gholvad stations of Western Railway, one of its sleeper coaches (S-3) caught fire which spread to the adjacent coaches Nos.S-2 & S-4. In this incident, 9 passengers lost their lives, of which 5 passengers were identified, while 4 passengers could not be identified.

In the third incident, on 17.01.2014, smoke was reported from the undergear of coach No.C-11 of Train No.12016 (Ajmer-New Delhi) Shatabdi Express on North Western Railway. The upper portion of the coach including the passenger area was not affected. As the undergear portion was attended promptly by on-board staff, there was no case of death or injury to the passengers.

(c) & (d) A statutory inquiry into the incident of fire on Train No.16594 (Bangalore-Nanded) Hazur Sahib Nanded Express on 28.12.2013 was conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS)/Southern Circle under the Ministry of Civil Aviation. As per preliminary report of CRS, the fire in 3 tier AC coach was most probably caused by advertent act or by an act of negligence on the part of unidentified passenger(s) or person(s). CRS' final report will be finalised as soon as the Forensic scientists from Andhra Pradesh Forensic Science Laboratory, Hyderabad who have collected samples from the burnt coach, submit their findings to CRS.

In case of the second incident, a statutory inquiry into the incident of fire on Train No. 19019 Up Bandra-Dehradun Express on 08.01.2014 by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS)/Western Circle under the Ministry of Civil Aviation is underway.

In the case of the third incident, an Inquiry Committee of Sr. Administrative Grade (SAG) level officers constituted by the General Manager/North Western Railway to inquire into the incident of fire on Train No.12016 (Ajmer-New Delhi) Shatabdi Express on 17.01.2014 is underway.

(e) In the fire incident of Bangalore-Nanded Express that took place on 28.12.13, the Hon'ble Minister of Railways announced an amount of Rs 5 lakh to the next of kin of the deceased, Rs 1 lakh to the passengers who sustained grievous injury and Rs 50,000/- to the passengers who sustained simple injury as enhanced ex-gratia relief as a special case on humanitarian grounds. Accordingly, a total amount of Rs 1,30,00,000/-, Rs 5,00,000/- and Rs 50,000/- in case of 26 deaths, 5 grievous injury and one simple injury respectively in Bangalore-Nanded Express fire incident has already been paid by the Railways.

In the Bandra-Dehradun Express fire incident that took place on 08.01.2014, Railways announced an amount of Rs 5 lakh to the next of kin of the deceased as enhanced ex-gratia relief as a special case on humanitarian grounds. In this incident, out of 9 deceased passengers, 5 passengers have been identified while 4 passengers could not be identified so far and accordingly a total amount of Rs 25,00,000/- has been paid by the Railways to the next of kin of the identified deceased passengers.

In the third incident involving (Ajmer-New Delhi) Shatabdi Express that took place on 17.01.2014, no casualty has been reported and therefore the question of payment of ex-gratia or compensation did not arise.

Besides the above, compensation of an amount of Rs 32,000/- to Rs 4,00,000/- is also payable for death/injury in train accident/untoward incident defined under Section 124/124-A of the Railways Act, 1989. Compensation is payable by the Railways only after the claims filed by the claimants in the Railway Claims Tribunal are decided by the Tribunal and the decrees so awarded by the Tribunal are satisfied by the Railways.