GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:398
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2014
TRAIN ACCIDENTS
Agarwal Shri Rajendra;Bundela Shri Jeetendra Singh

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have failed to check frequent train accidents;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have taken any decision to install anti-collision device for preventing the said accidents;

(c) if so, the reasons for not using the said device in all the railway zones after success of the said device installed on pilot basis in the year 2006;

(d) whether the Railways propose to prepare any action plan for taking immediate action regarding installation of the said device to check train accidents; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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. 398 BY SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL & SHRI JEETENDRA SINGH BUNDELA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 20.02.2014 REGARDING TRAIN ACCIDENTS.

(a) No, Madam. Safety is accorded the highest priority and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent accident and to enhance safety. As a result of sustained efforts, Consequential train accidents, excluding Unmanned Level Crossing Incidents on Indian Railways have declined from 239 in 2003-04 to 68 in 2012-13. Consequential Train accidents per million train Kilometers has decreased from 0.55 in 2001-02 to 0.12 in 2012-13 despite quantum increase in the volume of traffic carried by Indian Railways over the years.

(b) to (e) As part of the continuous endeavour to reduce accidents, Anti Collision Device (ACD) developed by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) was deployed on trials on 1736 Route Kilometers of Northeast Frontier Railway. In this pilot project of ACD, operational and technical issues have been observed. An improved ACD Software Version 1.1.2m developed by KRCL has been deployed on Tinsukia Division of Northeast Frontier Railway by KRCL and joint trials by Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), N.F. Railway and KRCL have recently been completed. On the basis of these, further loading of this improved ACD software 1.1.2m of Anti Collision Device has been commenced on the remaining four divisions of N.F. Railway i.e. Katihar, Alipur Duar, Rangia and Lumding.

Based on the experience of NFR, the specifications and design configuration of ACD were revised and the system as evolved was tried on the electrified multiple lines, automatic signalling section of the Southern Railway in 2010-2011. A large number of operational and technical problems have also been experienced in Southern Railway (SR) trials.

In view of above, low cost indigenous system named Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) which will have the features of both ACD and Train Protection Warning System (TPWS) is being developed by RDSO for its deployment on Indian Railways. Specifications of the system have already been finalized by RDSO which are to open standards to facilitate development of this product by multiple vendors. The proof of concept trials of TCAS were successfully carried out during October/November, 2012 on South Central Railway.

Extended field trials on 250 kilometres section Lingamapalli-Vikarabad−Wadi-Bidar section of South Central Railway have been planned by RDSO for which a work costing ? 29 crores was sanctioned in the Works Programme 2013-14. RDSO has also finalized the tenders and allocated work.

Initial rounds of extended field trials have been conducted during August/September'13 and Januay'14 by deploying proto-type equipments manufactured. The results have been encouraging so far, as during the trials, safety features of TCAS and interoperability could be successfully demonstrated. It is planned to deploy the TCAS equipment at all stations (23 no.) in this section and On-board equipments on 40 locomotives for conducting extended field trials by RDSO.