

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4410
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2014
NEGLECT OF SAFETY STANDARDS
Choudhary Shri Nikhil Kumar;Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the elementary safety standards are being neglected by the Railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Railways thereto;
- (c) the total train accidents occurred during the last three years and the total compensation paid to the families of killed/injured;
- (d) whether special powers have been conferred on the government Railway Police to protect railway assets and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether directions have been issued at zonal level to take steps to contain rail accidents and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Railways for the safety and development of Railways across the country?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 4410 BY SHRIADHIR VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MAADAM AND SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.02.2014 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING NEGLECT OF SAFETY STANDARDS.

(a) No, Madam. Safety standards adopted by Indian Railways are followed rigorously and meticulously.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Number of consequential train accidents on Indian Railways excluding incidents of trespassing at unmanned level crossings during the last three years, i.e. 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13, was 93, 77 and 68, respectively. The amount of compensation paid to the victims for death/injury in train accidents (under Section 124 of the Indian Railways Act, 1989) during the last three years, i.e., 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13, has been estimated to Rs 377.39 lakhs (approx.), Rs 510.78 lakhs (approx.) and Rs 319.63 lakhs (approx.), respectively.

(d) Prevention and detection of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments. For this purpose, a separate wing of State Police in the name of 'Government Railway Police' functions in respective States. As such, exercise of any special powers for protection of railway assets by the Government Railway Police falls within the domain of respective State Governments.

(e) In addition to the various safety measures being undertaken by Zonal Railways on regular basis to prevent train accidents, suitable directions are also issued to them from time to time keeping in view the type of train accidents taking place during a particular period or on particular Zonal Railways. During 2013-14 (upto 15.02.2014), directions have been issued by the Ministry of Railways for launch of safety drives (i) to prevent accidents at unmanned level crossings, (ii) for correct use of code bell signals and mode of signaling trains on single line block instrument, (iii) for observance of rules for reception of train on obstructed line, (iv) for taking necessary precautions during monsoon, (v) to prevent fire in pantry cars, (vi) for implementation of laid down guidelines on movement of push trolleys, and (vii) prevention of fire in trains.

(f) Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent accidents and to enhance safety. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives, and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Safety devices/systems being introduced to prevent accidents include provision of Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), Vigilance Control Device (VCD), Train Protection Warning System (TPWS), Train Collision Avoidance System/Anti Collision Device (ACD), etc. Indian Railways are consistently taking measures for development in its different departments and for adoption of modern technologies keeping in view their practical feasibility in Indian conditions and financial constraints of the Railways.

