

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:325
ANSWERED ON:13.02.2014
RAIL SAFETY
Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the high level safety review committee constituted by the Railways has submitted its report;
- (b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the said committee;
- (c) whether the committee has recommended for setting up a railway safety authority and making a sizeable investment for infrastructure of the railway and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the committee has recommended for introduction of safety cess on passengers for mopping up the revenue for infrastructure; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Railways in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER 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. 325 BY SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 13.02.2014 REGARDING RAIL SAFETY.

(a) Yes, Madam. The High Level Safety Review Committee was constituted by the Ministry of Railways under the Chairmanship of Dr. Anil Kakodkar has submitted its Report to the Ministry of Railways.

(b) The Kakodkar Committee has made 106 recommendations in their Report covering the following aspects: General safety matters, Organisational structure, Empowerment at Working Level, Safety related works and Issues, Filling up of vacancies in critical safety categories and Manpower Planning issues, Plugging the shortage of critical Safety Spares, External Interferences – Removal of encroachment and sabotage, Upgradation of Signalling, Telecommunication and Train Protection system, Upgradation of Rolling Stock, Track, Bridges, Elimination of Level Crossings, Human Resource Development with emphasis on Education and Training Institutes on Indian Railways, Eco-System and Safety Architectures on Indian Railways .

(c) The Committee has recommended that a Railway Safety Authority (RSA) should be set up as a statutory body independent of Indian Railway Board under the Government. The Authority shall have a separate budget fully funded by the Ministry of Railways and shall be backed by a full fledged Secretariat. Railway Safety Authority would have broad functions of Safety Regulation, accident investigation and safety management.

The Committee has recommended for making investments to the tune of 1,03,110 crores for over five years under various infrastructural heads as part of upgrading safety measures.

(d) The Committee has recommended for formation of a non-fungible non-lapsable safety fund generated through safety cess on passengers of different classes in graded manner to the tune of ` 5,000 crores per annum for five years.

(e) The recommendations of the Committee are presently under examination in the Ministry of Railways.