

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4481
ANSWERED ON:29.03.2017
Hirakund Express Train Accident
Butta Smt. Renuka

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the train accident of Hirakund express is on account of sabotage or because of mechanical or technical fault and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of casualties in the accident;
- (c) the amount of compensation proposed to be paid to the victims' families and the injured;
- (d) whether any concrete steps are being taken to avoid such accidents in future and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken against those responsible for the accidents?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN)

(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. 4481 BY SHRIMATI BUTTA RENUKA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 29.03.2017 REGARDING HIRAKUND EXPRESS TRAIN ACCIDENT

(a): In the derailment of Train No. 18448 Jagdalpur-Bhubaneswar Hirakhand Express near Kureru station on Singapuram Road-Vizianagaram Section of East Coast Railway on 21.01.2017, Government Railway Police (GRP)/Vizianagaram has registered a case vide No.06/2017 u/s 174 Cr.P.C. dated 22.01.2017 which was transferred to CID/Andhra Pradesh where a case vide No.CID/17/1306 dated 07.02.2017 has been registered. Investigation of the case has now been taken up by National Investigation Agency (NIA) and statutory inquiry into the said derailment has been ordered to determine the causes and responsible factors of the accident to be conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), South Central Circle, Secunderabad under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(b): 40 persons lost their lives, 17 sustained grievous injuries and 21 sustained simple injuries

(c): An amount of ` 08 lakh for death and ` 64,000/- to ` 08 lakh for injury depending upon the gravity of injury is paid by the Railways as per decree of Railway Claims Tribunal. However, on humanitarian grounds, an ex-gratia amount of ` 02 lakh to the next of kin of each deceased and ` 50,000/- to each of the persons who sustained grievous injuries and ` 25,000/- to each of the persons who sustained simple injuries has been paid in the said train accident. Hon'ble Prime Minister also announced ex-gratia relief of ` 02 lakh to the next kin of each deceased and ` 50,000/- to each of the persons who sustained grievous injury in the accident.

(d): Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis including up-gradation of technology to aid safe running of trains. These include replacement of over-aged assets, elimination of unmanned level crossings, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training of officials and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Safety devices/systems used to prevent accidents include complete track circuiting, provision of Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Train Protection Warning Systems (TPWS), Colour Light LED Signals, Vigilance Control Device (VCD), usage of 60 kg rails and Pre-stressed Concrete Sleepers, long rail panels, better welding technology, digital types of machines for ultrasonic flaw detection (USFD), electronic monitoring of tracks using track recording cars (TRC) and portable oscillation monitoring system (OMS), progressive use of Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) Coaches, Centre Buffer Coupler with Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Coaches, etc. Other measures include training of loco pilots and other safety category staff, improvement of their working conditions including proper rest and periodic medical examinations etc. Besides, periodic safety drives, inspections as per laid down schedules, patrolling of tracks, footplate inspections and safety reviews at various levels are regularly conducted to continuously monitor and improve safety aspects of the Railways.

(e): Action would be taken against those who are held responsible for the accident after finalization of statutory inquiry by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Central Circle, Secunderabad.
