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Title: Statement regarding accident at unmanned railway crossing near Hathras, North Eastern Railway, resulting in loss of Human lives.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MUKUL ROY): Sir, I am pained to apprise the House regarding an unfortunate incident that occurred today at an Unmanned Level Crossing wherein one mini van carrying 22 persons and a dead body dashed against Train No. 51976 Mathura - Kasganj Passenger at about 07.23 hours on 20.03.2012 between Hathras City and Mendu stations of Mathura-Kasganj section of Izzatnagar Division of North Eastern Railway. In this incident, 15 persons travelling in the mini van lost their lives and three persons suffered injuries, whereas four persons jumped out of the van and saved themselves. This incident took place at a 'C' class unmanned level crossing with very low traffic density (1050 Train Vehicle Unit as per Census done in November, 2009). No passenger travelling in the train was injured or killed in this incident.

Medical Relief was immediately despatched through an Accident Relief Medical Train (ARME) which departed Kasganj at 07.55 hours and reached the site of occurrence at 09.15 hours. However, local public and civil authorities had shifted the injured to nearby hospital by the time the ARME reached the site. The injured were moved to a local hospital at Badhwa and those requiring special medical attention were sent to Medical College at Aligarh. General Manager, North Eastern Railway and Divisional Railway Manager, Izzatnagar have proceeded to the site of the accident.

As per preliminary information received, the incident occurred due to the negligent driving by the driver of the mini van. The driver did not stop his van at the Stop Board short of level crossing to check for approaching train as prescribed in the Section 131 of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

On humanitarian grounds, an *ex gratia* amount of rupees two lakh each to the next of the kin of deceased, Rs.50,000 to the grievously injured and Rs.25,000 to persons who sustained simple injury has been announced.

On behalf of Railways and myself, I express deep condolences to the bereaved families and also express sincere sympathies to the injured. I trust the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

श्री अर्जुन राम मेघवाल (बीकानेर): आपने कह दिया कि रेलवे से सूचना मिली है और यह हुआ है। आपने इस पर कोई कमेटी बनाई या नहीं? ... (व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions) \* \* \*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down.

(Interruptions) \* \* \*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions) \* \* \*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Shri E.G. Sugavanam will speak on the Railway Budget.

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM (KRISHNAGIRI): Sir, I have given notice to speak in Tamil.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: At the moment, Tamil Interpreter is not available. So, you may speak later. I will call the next speaker.

Dr. Ram Chandra Dome – not present.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I start the 'Zero Hour' now. मैं माननीय सदस्यों से आग्रह करूंगा कि वे अपना शून्यकाल का पूस्ताव रखकर जाने का कष्ट न करें, बैठें और सभा की शोभा बढ़ाएं।

