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Title: Need to man all the unmanned railway level crossings in the country to curb accidents.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Madam Speaker, I would like to raise a very important matter of urgent public importance pertaining to increasing number of accidents that are happening in unmanned level crossings across the country.

The increasing number of accidents happening in unmanned level crossings in the country has resulted in an alarming situation. This is a very important matter pertaining to railway safety. Today also, during the Question Hour there was a question regarding railway safety. A lot of people are dying in accidents that are taking place in various parts of our country due to unmanned level crossings. The total number of people who have died in accidents at unmanned level crossings was 12,376 in 2009, 12,894 in 2010 and 14,611 in 2011. This trend is very disturbing. So, all the unmanned level crossings in the country should be converted into manned level crossings. This was announced in the Railway Budget also. But in many places, sometimes the unmanned level crossings are totally closed. They should not be closed because the people living on both sides of the railway line have to cross it to reach the nearby places. If the unmanned level crossing is closed, then the connection to the nearby places is totally cut off. The senior Minister is present here. The Government has to look into the pathetic condition of the people who are living near unmanned level crossings.

The Government of India should consult the concerned State Governments and local bodies and take immediate steps to convert all the unmanned level crossings into manned level crossings in the country. The Central Government can persuade the State Government to allow 50% funds from local bodies and it can be provided from monitoring authority to concerned local bodies to take care of the level crossings in that area.