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Title: Need to eliminate all unmanned level crossings in the country.

SHRI M. MURLI MOHAN (RAJAHMUNDRY): Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on an important matter.

I am shocked and constrained to note increase in train accidents at unmanned level crossings in various parts of the country. Recently, an accident occurred in which a passenger train rammed into a school bus at an unmanned level crossing at Masaipet, near Toopran, in Medak district of Telangana State that had killed 18 innocent students.

In this context, the compensation announced by the hon. Minister of Railways of Rs. 2 lakhs to the victims' family is very meagre and not at all justified. I would urge upon the Minister to enhance the compensation to at least Rs. 5 lakhs which will be a substantial relief to the victims of the family who have lost their loved ones.

I would request the Minister to kindly sanction adequate funds to eliminate all the unmanned level crossings in the country in a phased and time-bound manner. I would also urge upon the Minister to take preventive steps so as to avoid recurrence of such incidents.