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Title: The Minister of Railways made a statement regarding the incident occurred at Unmanned level crossing on North-Eastern Railway.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): Madam, I am pained to apprise this august House regarding an unfortunate incident which has occurred today at an Unmanned Level Crossing wherein one road vehicle carrying 22 school children dashed against train No. 55135 (going from Azamgarh to Varanasi city) at 08.15 hours today on Unmanned Level Crossing No. 6 C at Km No. 10/5-6 between Khurahat and Mau Junction Railway Stations on Mau-Shahganj section of Banaras Division of North East Railway. Seventeen passengers of the road vehicle have been admitted to two local hospitals in Mau (of which 13 are admitted in the local district at Mau and 4 in a local private nursing home) while 5 passengers are reported to have unfortunately expired.

The senior Railway officials of the North East Railway have been directed immediately to proceed to the site and are supervising rescue and relief operation.

As per the preliminary information received, the incident occurred due to the negligent driving by the driver of the road vehicle. The driver did not stop the vehicle at the Stop Board short of level crossing to check for approaching train as prescribed in Section 131 of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988. As per information from the site, visibility was poor due to foggy conditions.

On humanitarian grounds, an *ex-gratia* amount of Rs. 2 lakh each to the next of the kin of deceased, Rs. 1 lakh to the grievously injured and Rs. 20,000 to persons who sustained simple injury have 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 heart-felt condolences to the bereaved families.

Madam, I would like to also add that as on 01.04.2014, there are 11,563 unmanned crossings in India. This is very sad that these accidents take place in this manner. While it should be an effort, and all of us join in that effort, to make sure that we have a manned crossing or a crossing in which such accidents do not take place; but while we do that, we are trying to find out a way of preventing such accidents by taking such steps. I am really working on that. I am very sorry to say this, Madam.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (KARUR): I would request the hon. Railway Minister to consider this. Regarding the unmanned level crossings, at least, you can have a provision of underpasses. If you are not able to get the manned road, you give some kind of an underpass or a subway. That is better. Otherwise, there would not be any end to such accidents.

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे (गुलबर्गा) : मैडम, कल हमने सदन में यह बात उठाई थी कि माननीय प्राइम-मिनिस्टर साहब आये हैं, और मिनिस्टर साहब ने स्टेटमेंट दिया था और अपॉलॉजी उन्होंने मांगी थी। ... (व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : खड़गे जी, येज-येज वही बातें आप उठाते हैं... (व्यवधान) स्टेटमेंट हमेशा विदेश मंत्री ही देते हैं, ऐसा ही होता आया है। You know it better than me. सौगतराय जी, आपने नोटिस दिया हुआ है, वह मेरे कंसीडरेशन में है।

... (व्यवधान)

HON. SPEAKER: The Privilege Motion is with me. It is under my consideration.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Q. 161, Shri Dushyant Singh.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Now nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions) अहो!

**11.07 hrs**

*At this stage, Shri Shri Deepender Singh Hooda, Shri Gaurav Gogoi,*

*Dr. A. Sampath and some other hon. Members came*

*and stood on the floor near the Table.*