

- (i) to recommend to the Group of Ministers/Cabinet that Rail Tel Corporation of India Limited (RCIL) should induct Joint Venture partner(s).
- (ii) RCIL should consider MTNL, VSNL and Railway Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) for Joint Venture (JV) partner(s) for synergy, to start with.
- (iii) BSNL may also be kept in view for telecom business for mutual benefits.

These were examined by a Group of Ministers (GOM) and based on GOM's recommendations, the Cabinet decided to approve induction of Joint Venture partner(s) in RCIL keeping Railways equity as 51%. The Cabinet has also decided that initially, PSUs of Department of Telecom and PSUs of Ministry of Railways may be considered for inducting as Joint Venture partner(s).

(c) The objectives of the proposed venture are:—

- (i) to expeditiously modernise Railways' train control, operational and safety systems and networks;
- (ii) to generate much needed revenues for implementing Railway's developmental projects, safety enhancement and asset replacement programmes;
- (iii) to create a nationwide broadband telecom and multimedia network to supplement national telecom infrastructure to spur growth of telecom, internet and IT-enabled value added services in all parts of the country specially rural, remote and backward areas; and
- (iv) to significantly contribute to realisation of goals and objectives of National Telecom Policy, 1999.

#### **Accidents at unmanned railway crossings**

2854. PROF.A.LAKSHMISAGAR:

SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of fatal accidents at unmanned railway crossing in the country, Zone-wise during the last three years and the number of deaths in each case;

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(b) what is the number of unmanned railway crossings manned during the same period, against the target, stating the reasons for failure to fulfil the target; and

(c) the details of programme, if any, formulated by Government to man the unmanned railway crossings in the country, stating the period by which the task is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Number of consequential train accidents at unmanned railway crossings along with the numbers of persons killed therein during the last three years is given below zone-wise:—

Railway	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001*	
	No. of Acci- dents	No. of Persons killed	No. of Acci- dent	No. of Persons killed	No. of Acci- dent	No. of Persons killed
Central Railway	3	4	7	22	5	6
Eastern Railway	1	1	—	—	—	—
Northern Railway	9	20	14	44	25	39
North- Eastern Railway	4	7	14	77	13	16
North-east Frontier Railway	2	3	4	5	5	15
Southern Railway	4	13	8	29	6	5
South Central Railway	10	39	12	18	12	23
South- Eastern Railway	9	7	5	3	5	12
Western Railway	6	44	3	3	1	2
Konkan Railway Corporation—		—	—	—	1	10
Total:	48	138	67	201	73	128

(b) and (c) 265 unmanned level crossings have been manned during the last three years.

\*Figures are provisional.

The manning of unmanned level crossings is to be sponsored by the State Government duly agreeing to bear their share of cost and providing funds therefor. Railway has however, decided to man 4449 unmanned level crossings on broad gauge routes from its own funds and work on 1810 unmanned level crossings has been sanctioned. In addition Hon'ble MPs are being approached to sponsor manning of unmanned level crossings from MPLADS funds. Railway has also decided to man one unmanned level crossing in consultation with Hon'ble MP at its own cost for each unmanned level crossing proposed for manning from MPLAD Scheme.

**Rail projects in Marathwada, Vidharbha regions**

2855. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the projects undertaken by the Railways in Marathwada and Vidharbha regions of Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Railways have taken up the gauge conversion project, connecting Achalapur-Murtizapur-Yeotmal;

(c) if so, the progress made in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Railway projects in progress in Maharashtra, including in the Vidarbha and Marathwada regions are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) In view of heavy throwforward of ongoing projects and constraint of resources, Gauge Conversion of Achalpur-MurtezapurYavatmal section has not yet been sanctioned.

**Statement**

*Railway projects in progress in Maharashtra including in the Vidarbha and Marathwada*

*New Lines*

1. Amravati-Narkher
2. Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Vaijnath