

(b) if so, whether this train halts at Dhenkanal a famous district centre of the State;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government is aware of the fact that there is a huge resentment among people due to non-stoppage of the said train at Dhenkanal; and

(e) if so, the measure being contemplated by Government to sort out the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Stoppage of 2879/2880 Bhubaneswar-Lokmanya Tilak (Terminus) Express has been provided at Dhenkanal from 08.02.2010. Besides this, 2145/2146 Bhubaneswar-Lokmanya Tilak (Terminus) Express (Weekly) is also available for Dhenkanal-Mumbai passengers. Stoppage of 2745/2746 Puri-Lokmanya Tilak (Terminus) Express at Dhenkanal has been examined but not found feasible at present.

Vacant posts in Railways

3975. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of posts sanctioned in safety category and the number of them lying vacant, post-wise and zone-wise;

(b) the steps taken to fill-up all the vacant posts;

(c) the measures taken to strengthen safety of rail passengers and to minimize rail accidents; and

(d) the action taken to modernize railway signaling system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Train accidents

3976. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of train accidents took place in the past six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise;

(c) the number of casualties occurred in these accidents; and

(d) the preventive measures taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) During the last six months from October, 2009 to March, 2010, 55 consequential train accidents, *i.e.*, Derailments, Collisions, Manned Level Crossing accidents and Miscellaneous accidents (other than cases of trespassing at Unmanned Level Crossings-UMLCs) took place

on Indian Railways. Zone-wise number of consequential train accidents during this period and casualties involved therein is given below:-

Zonal Railways	No. of Consequential Train Accidents (Excluding UMLC)	Casualties	
		Killed	Injured
Central	9	2	46
Eastern	—	—	—
East Central	7	3	3
Northern	5	—	—
North Eastern	2	1	2
Northeast Frontier	4	—	4
North Western	3	—	24
Southern	1	—	—
South Central	6	—	—
South Eastern	4	—	24
Western	1	—	10
East Coast	3	1	—
South Western	2	—	5
West Central	2	—	—
North Central	5	38	91
Southeast Central	1	—	—
	55	45	209

(d) All possible steps are undertaken on a continuing basis to prevent accidents. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training of officials and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices.

Stoppage of trains at Jajpur Keonjhar road

3977. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: