

elementary education covering various facets of elementary education which is used in planning of SSA Programme. At the State level, academic resource support is provided through State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs).

Train accidents

3456. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are over 200 accidents in last 14 months in the country whereas train accidents are rare in most countries;

(b) if so, whether Government had constituted any Body to analyze the factors which could be the basic reasons for those accidents;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the rail safety measures taken by Government for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir. During the last 14 months period of May, 2009 to July, 2010, a total of 116 consequential train accidents excluding incidents of trespassing at unmanned level crossing took place on Indian Railways.

As per the records of Accidents Per Million Passenger Kilometers maintained by International Union of Railways (UIC), Indian Railways compare quite favorably in comparison to the advanced countries of Europe. As per the latest available figures, in the year 2006, Accident Per Million Passenger Kilometers in India was 0.0003 in comparison to 0.0015 in Japan, 0.0021 in France, 0.0022 in United Kingdom, 0.0029 in Italy, 0.0042 in Belgium, 0.0046 in Germany and 0.0064 in Switzerland. Since the year 2006, there has been a further improvement in the safety performance on Indian Railways.

(b) and (c) All serious accidents are enquired into by the Commission of Railway Safety which is an independent statutory body under the Ministry of Civil Aviation. During the last 14 months period of May, 2009 to July, 2010, out of 116 consequential train accidents, 20 accidents have been enquired by the Commission of Railway Safety.

(d) Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continuing basis by the Railways to enhance safety. 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. Safety devices introduced to prevent accidents include provision of Track Circuiting at stations, Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), Light Emitting Diode (LED) Signals, Vigilance Control Device (VCD) and pilot projects on Anti-collision Device (ACD) and Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS), etc.