

Representations from Hon'ble Members of Parliament/Ministers/organizations/associations/different levels of State Government, including that of Saurashtra region of Gujarat etc. are received at various levels of railway administration. These are examined and action as found feasible and justified, is taken.

It is proposed to introduce 12949/12950 Porbandar-Santragachi Kavi Guru Express (weekly) during 2011-2012.

Train accidents

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

(a) the strategy and precaution being taken by Railways to prevent train accidents in future;

(b) the details of the number of accidents, loss of life and property in the accidents during last one year; and

(c) the number of cases wherein cause of accidents have been found and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continuing basis to prevent accidents and to enhance safety. Strategy of the Indian Railways for accident prevention include progressively achieving reduction in accidents attributable to human failure by way of introduction of modern technologies and devices and mechanization of maintenance. Safety measures taken by the railways 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/systems being introduced to prevent accidents include provision of Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), Fog Safe Device, Vigilance Control Device (VCD), Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS), Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS)/Anti Collision Device (ACD) etc.

(b) During 2010-11, 93 consequential train accidents consisting of 5 collisions, 80 derailments, 5 manned level crossing accidents, 2 cases of fire in trains and one miscellaneous accident, took place on Indian Railways. 250 persons lost their lives in these accidents in 2010-11, out of which 150 deaths took place in the derailment and collision of Jhaneswari Express on 28.05.2010 near Kharagpur caused due to sabotage. These figures do not include cases of trespassing at unmanned level crossings caused due to negligence of road vehicle users. Loss to railway property in the above 93 consequential train accidents has been estimated to be Rs. 71.93 crore (approx.).

Each and every consequential train accident is enquired into either by Commission of Railway Safety under the Ministry of Civil Aviation or by a Departmental Enquiry Committee depending upon severity of the accidents.

(c) Based on the reports of Commission of Railway Safety and Departmental Enquiry Committees, out of 93 consequential train accidents, 59 were attributable to failure of railway staff, 10 due to failure of other than railway staff, 2 due to failure of equipment, 16 due to sabotage, 2 due to combination of factors, 4 due to incidental factors.

Findings/recommendations of the Commissioners of Railway Safety/Departmental Enquiry Committees are examined by the concerned departments of Indian Railways for compliance. During 2010-11, major and minor penalties were imposed on 66 and 71 erring officials, respectively. Out of these, 23 Railway officials have been removed/dismissed from service.

Railway lines in Orissa

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

(a) the fate of Haridaspur-Paradip, Sukinda-Angul, Khurda-Bolangir and Talcher-Bimlagarh railway lines; and

(b) by when these railway lines of Orissa are going to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) (i) **Haridaspur-Paradeep new line Project** : Overall Physical Progress is 15%. Earthwork and bridges have been taken up. Work is held up as villagers are obstructing work for want of higher compensation for land.

(ii) **Angul-Sukinda new line Project**: Land acquisition is under process. Physical work will commence after land acquisition.

(iii) **Khurda, Road-Bolangir new line Project** : Land acquisition, earthwork, major bridges and minor bridges are in progress. Khurda Road-Begunia (32 km.) is targeted for completion in 2011-12.

(iv) **Talcher-Bimlagarh new line Project** : Land acquisition is in progress. Major bridges have been taken up. Earthwork will be taken up after the land is made available.

These works will be progressed and completed in the coming years as per the availability of resources.

Factories at Dankuni

766. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: