

land. Regular meetings and being conducted at various levels with State Government Authorities to review the progress of land acquisition and resolve other issues arising out of the land acquisition.

**Unmanned level crossings**

1667. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of increasing number of fatal accidents at Unmanned Level Crossings (ULCs) across the country, Railways propose to construct subways and underpasses at all ULCs;

(b) if so, the details of railway accidents occurred at ULCs during the past three years;

(c) whether any time-line has been fixed to construct such subways or underpasses at ULCs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (d) It has emerged from the study of pattern of accidents that manning of unmanned level crossings is not an ideal solution for avoiding accidents. Therefore, the policy of manning of unmanned level crossings has been reviewed and Hon'ble Minister of Railways (MR) has announced in Budget Speech for elimination of all unmanned level crossings. Accordingly, Railways have decided to progressively eliminate all unmanned level crossings by:

- Closure - Closing unmanned level crossings having NIL/negligible Train Vehicle Unit (TVU).
- Merger - Merger of unmanned level crossing gate to nearby manned or unmanned gates or subway or Road Under Bridge (RUB) or Road Over Bridge (ROB) by construction of diversion road.
- Provision of Subways/RUBs.
- Manning - The unmanned level crossings which cannot be eliminated by above means will be progressively manned based on rail-road traffic volume, visibility conditions.

Elimination of all these Level Crossings is a gigantic task and involves lot of manpower, resources and budgetary support. It is a continuous process and is done as per need, *inter-se* priority of works, availability of funds and co-operation of State Government, particularly, in getting consent of closure of level crossing and undertaking to maintain road and drainage in future for subways.

The details of railway accidents occurred at Unmanned Level Crossings (ULCs) in the past three years and in the current year upto November 2012 is as given below:

Year	Number of railway accidents
2009-10	65
2010-11	48
2011-12	54
2012-13 (upto Nov 2012)	36

**Accidents involving elephants and other animals**

†1668. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is making any efforts to prevent the accidents involving elephants and other animals on railway tracks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether elephant corridors have been identified for the purpose of controlling speed of trains and installing sign boards; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Ministry of Railways is holding regular meetings with the Ministry of Environment and Forests to take remedial measures for controlling elephant casualties. Elephant corridors have been identified by the Forest Department, and on such corridors speed restrictions have been imposed and signage boards provided to pre-warn the train drivers. Advisory to Zonal Railways have also been issued to sensitise Train Crew and Station Masters on a regular basis. Instructions have also been issued for need based clearance of vegetation on the sides of the track within railway land.

As per the advice of Forest Department, Railways is also attempting to find a more lasting solution in the matter through deposit works consisting of measures such as ramps and underpasses etc., the cost of which will be borne by the Forest Department.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The elephant corridors identified in consultation with Forest Department, are as under:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.