

Lucknow-Mumbai Pushpak Express at Vidisha has been examined and found not feasible at present.

(c) At present, there is no proposal for provision of stoppage of 12001/12002 Delhi-Bhopal Shatabdi Express and 12533/12534 Lucknow-Mumbai Pushpak Express at Vidisha.

However, provision of stoppages on Indian Railways is an ongoing process and depends upon factors like traffic offering at the station, operational feasibility, commercially viability, availability of alternative services, passing time of the train at the station, pattern of services, population and signification of towns/cities and new developments taking place etc.

**Policy for time-bound compensation to accident victims**

4154. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any concrete policy to give time-bound compensation to the victims of railway accidents; and

(b) if so, the details of the policy and compensation given to victims during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The compensation to the victims of train accidents as defined under Section 124 of the Railways Act, 1989, is paid by the Railways after a claim filed by the claimant in the Railway Claims Tribunal is decreed by the Tribunal in favour of the claimant and decree so awarded is decided to be satisfied by the Railways.

The Railway Claims Tribunal is a quasi-judicial body independent from the Railways. Judicial process for settling the claims involves different stages, like filing of Written Statements, filing of evidence and arguments, which is a formalized process. The disposal of railway accident compensation claims in the Tribunal depends upon the facts and circumstances of each case. Railways make all out efforts at their end for early disposal of the compensation claims in train accidents. An Accident cell is set up at each zonal Head quarter to provide assistance for filing of accident compensation claims and monitor them till the satisfaction of decree passed by the Railway Claims Tribunal. After the decree is passed by the Tribunal and satisfied by the Railway administration, payment of decreed amount is made at the earliest.

The compensation given to the victims of train accidents, as defined under Section 124 of the Railways Act, 1989, during the last three years is as under:—

2010-11	:	Rs. 570.27 lakhs
2011-12	:	Rs. 497.71 lakhs
2012-13	:	Rs. 318.83 lakhs

#### **Appointments of ticket agents**

†4155. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision to appoint ticket agents in the country by Railways;

(b) if so, the number of ticket agents appointed in the country, so far;

(c) whether such agents are appointed for a certain period or on a regular basis; and

(d) whether any agent has been de-recognised in certain region on the basis of appointment period, if so, the details of the regions wherein agents have been de-recognised along with the reasons therefor?

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

#### **Quantity and quality of food supplied in trains**

4156. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is concerned about the matter of degraded and poor quality and quantity of meal, food materials served in the Rajdhani and other trains running to Guwahati and Dibrugarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has carried out any food sample test on Rajdhani

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.