

**Stampede at Allahabad railway station**

114. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI ALOK TIWARI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of persons died and injured during stampede at Allahabad railway station on 10th February, 2013;

(b) the details of the ex-gratia announced and paid to the kin of victims;

(c) whether Government has enquired into the reasons for stampede and has fixed responsibility in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) 37 persons died and 42 were injured in the unfortunate and tragic incident at Allahabad railway station on 10th February, 2013.

(b) On humanitarian consideration the Hon'ble Prime Minister announced an ex-gratia payment of Rs.2 lakh for the next of the kin of the people who lost their lives and Rs.50,000 for those who sustained injuries. In addition, the Ministry of Railways announced an ex-gratia payment of Rs.1,00,000/- to the next kin of the people who died in the incident and Rs.50,000/- and Rs.25,000/- to those who sustained grievous and simple injuries, respectively. An amount of about Rs.9.18 lakhs has already been disbursed to the affected families/people and arrangements have been made to ensure disbursement of the balance amount after completing the necessary formalities.

(c) to (e) Ministry of Railways have constituted a three member Committee to enquire into the reason(s) for the incidence.

**Passenger fare hike**

115. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI ALOK TIWARI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has increased passenger train fares recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, class-wise;
- (c) the reasons for the same;
- (d) whether fare of sleeper and general classes have also been increased;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Railways have assessed its impact on poor sections of the society;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether Government is contemplating to reduce the railway freight; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof and the rationale therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (f) Passenger fares had not witnessed any increase since 2002-03; in fact, fares in several segments of passenger services, including Second Class, were revised downwards in subsequent years. A correction had become imperative from the view point of redressing the un-viability that had consequently got manifested in the fare structure and, also, generating resources that are critically required for funding initiatives in thrust areas, viz. modernization and safety.

The revision in Passenger Fares that has been implemented with effect from 22.01.2013 is a moderate one as would be evident from the following table:

Sl. No.	Class	Increase in Fare paise per PKM
1	Second Class Ordinary (Suburban)	2 Paise
2	Second Class Ordinary (Non-Suburban)	3 Paise
3	Second Class (Mail/Express)	4 Paise
4	Sleeper Class	6 Paise
5	AC Chair Car	10 Paise
6	AC 3-Tier	10 Paise
7	First Class	03 Paise
8	AC2-Tier	06 Paise
9	AC First Class	10 Paise

The impact of the moderate increases in fares that have been implemented with effect from 22.01.2013 is expected to be only marginal particularly in respect of the lower classes.

(g) and (h) Evaluation of various alternatives relating to rationalization of the freight traffic and passenger fare structures is an on-going process. Presently, there is no proposal for reducing railway freight.

#### **Maintenance work on Ahmedabad-Mumbai railway station**

116. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by the Ministry for proper maintenance of railway tracks, bridges and railway crossings between Ahmedabad-Mumbai sector as this is busiest railway route of the country; and

(b) how much funds have been used during last five years and allocated for next five years in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Railway has systematic schedule for maintenance of tracks, bridges and railway crossings which includes regular inspections and is being followed in Mumbai-Ahmedabad section also.

(b) Section-wise expenditure figures are not maintained by the Railway. Mumbai-Ahmedabad section falls in Mumbai, Vadodara and Ahmedabad Divisions of Western Railway. Allotment of funds is made Division-wise. Approximately Rs. 800 crores have been spent, during the last five years, on this section in maintenance of track, bridges and level crossings including expenditure on replacement of assets like track renewals etc. As per the maintenance requirements, funds allocations are made every year in Railway Budget.

#### **Target of transportation of freight**

117. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set the target of transportation of 1200 million tonnes of freight by the year 2013-14; and