

time. Field units have been empowered with further delegation of powers and the contract conditions have been modified to bring efficiency in contract management.

Delay in train services due to fog

2916. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the delay in train services due to foggy conditions;
- (b) whether Government has taken any step to address the situation;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government has taken any step to improve safety in trains in foggy conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During foggy conditions, the visibility gets poor and consequently trains get delayed as Railways are compelled to operate trains at speeds lower than the nominated speeds to ensure safety of passengers. As a result, trains take more time to clear each block section with cascading effect on the operation of trains following it.

Traditionally, dense fog occurs on the sections which happen to have heavy density of traffic severely impairing smooth movement of trains. With available technical inputs, a permanent solution to the problem of mobility of trains during fog does not appear to be on hand for the present. In certain cases, trains are also cancelled to ensure punctual running of other train services on the section/sector. To mitigate the effect of late running of trains, when the pairing rake gets delayed, Indian Railways, to the extent feasible, makes efforts to originate trains right time by using the rakes released from the cancelled services.

(d) As Indian Railway accords highest importance to safety of passengers, the following steps have been taken to ensure safety of passengers on-board:

- (i) Standing instructions exist for the Loco Pilots to be alert.
- (ii) Depending upon the degree of the visibility, trains are run at restricted speeds so that Loco Pilots are able to clearly observe and follow the signal aspects.

- (iii) Installation of LED signals for improved visibility of signals in foggy weather.

Train accidents

2917. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of train accidents from 2008 till date, date-wise;
- (b) the reasons for each accident and how many were caused due to human error;
- (c) the passengers died and injured in each accident;
- (d) the comparison of accident-scenario of Indian Railways with advanced countries;
- (e) the safety-related vacancies in Railways; and
- (f) the steps taken to prevent train accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Year-wise and category-wise number of consequential train accidents excluding incidents of trespassing at unmanned level crossings caused due to negligence of road vehicle users, during 2008-09 to 2011-12 and the current year (upto February 2013), is as under:

Type of Accident	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (April to Feb.)
Collision	13	9	5	9	6
Derailments	85	80	80	55	46
Manned Level Crossing Accidents	7	5	5	7	5
Fire in Train	3	2	2	4	8
Miscellaneous	7	4	1	2	0
TOTAL	115	100	93	77	65