

[9 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

Reservation of rail tickets through ATMs

149. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways propose to extend the facility for reserving tickets through ATMs;

(b) if so, the details of banks with whom Government have entered into an agreement;

(c) whether Government are also entering into an agreement with institutionally promoted banks such as ICICI, HDF, UTI, IDBI etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Frequent rail accidents

150. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of some major railway accidents which took place in the country during the period 1.1.2004 till 30.6.2004 and the reason therefor;

(b) the steps taken to minimize such accidents in the near future;

(c) whether it is a fact that the continuous disregard of the reports of the Rakesh Mohan Committee and Justice Khanna Committee is the major reason for such frequent railway accidents; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to implement some of the major recommendation of these committees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There have been 132 (Provisional figures) consequential train accidents on Indian Railways during the period 1.1.2004 to 30.06.2004.

Of these 3 were major train accidents attended with 10 more fatalities. The details of these 3 major accidents are as under:—

| S.No. | Date | Brief Details | Killed | Injured | Cause |
|-------|----------|--|--------|---------|---|
| 1 | 27.2.04 | A truck dashed against the train engine of 5657 Exp. at unmanned level crossing No. SK-333 of the Katihar Division of Northeast Frontier Railway | 10 | 37 | Negligence of road user |
| 2 | 12.5.04 | A three wheeler dashed against the train engine of 4015 Exp. at Unmanned Level Crossing No. 30 of the Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway | 10 | 2 | Negligence of road user |
| 3. | 16.06.04 | While on run, the train engine and next 10 coaches of the 2620 Up Matsyagandha Express, derailed between the Veer-Karanjadi stations of the Ratnagiri-Roha region of Konkan Railway. | 15 | 106 | Boulder and soil fall, resulting in obstruction on track. |

(b) Safety is the prime concern of Indian Railways and continuous initiatives are undertaken to prevent accidents. These measures include adoption of suitable and modern technology for interlocking and signalling systems, upgradation of standards of track and rolling stock, modernization of maintenance practices, replacement of overaged assets, upgradation of training aids like simulators and checks on observance of safety precautions. A Corporate Safety Plan (2003—2013) has also been prepared and is followed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

A/C Coaches In Ranikhet Express

†151. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to extend facility of A/C first class and A/C second class in the Ranikhet Express running between Delhi-Kathgodam in view of the growing demand of tourists;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.