

- (4) On vulnerable and indentified routes/sections, 2500 trains (on an average) are escorted by RPF daily, in addition to 2200 trains escorted by GRP of different States daily.
- (5) Sniffer Dog Squads are utilized at some important stations for anti-sabotage checks.
- (6) Minister of Railways held a video conference with the Director Generals/Commissioners of Police of all States/Union Territories for improving passenger safety, security of tracks and railway property.

(b) Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis including upgradation of technology to prevent trains accidents and to enhance safety. These include complete track circuiting of stations, Axle Counter for Automatic Clearance of Block Section Counters (BPAC), Electrical/Electronic Interlocking System, Interlocking of Level Crossing Gates, Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), Vigilance Control Device (VCD) in Locomotives, Colour Light LED Signals, Train Protection Warning System (TPWS), Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS), Fog Safe Device (FSD), use of 60 kg rails and Pre-stressed Concrete Sleepers, Long rail panels, Better welding technology in the tracks, Digital types of machines for Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD), Electronic monitoring of tracks using Track Recording Cars (TRC) and portable Oscillation Monitoring System (OMS), progressive use of Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches, Centre Buffer Couplers in Integral Coach Factory (ICF) design Coaches, Remote Monitoring and Management of Locomotives and Trains (REMMLOT), Air Conditioning (AC) of Locomotive Cabs and Installation of video/voice recording system of locomotives.

Kanpur train tragedy

2666. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kanpur train tragedy of 20th November, 2016 was an act of terror, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the meeting taken by the Minister of Railways *via* video conferencing in which DG, Railways, Uttar Pradesh Police said that the accident was a result of fatigue of tracks; and

(c) the details of all the reports which the Ministry of Railways have prepared on the Kanpur train tragedy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) In the accident case of train No. 19321 Indore-Rajendranagar Terminal (Patna Express) between Pokhrayan and Malasa Railway Stations over Jhansi Division

of North Central Railway dated 20.11.2016, enquiry has been ordered to be conducted to determine the reasons of the accident by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), Eastern Circle, Kolkata under the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Simultaneously, policing on Railways being a State subject, Government Railway Police/Bhimsen has registered a case *vide* Cr. No. 55/2016 *u/s* 337, 338, 304 (a), 427 IPC and 151, 154 of Railways Act. However, the case has now been entrusted to National Investigation Agency (NIA) for further investigation.

(b) In the light of recent repeated incidents of placing obstruction on railway tracks and attempts of cutting of railway tracks by miscreants, Hon'ble Minister of Railways held a video conference on 27.02.2017 with the Director Generals/Commissioners of Police of all States/Union Territories in the Rail Bhawan, New Delhi. During the video conference, Hon'ble Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, also addressed the Police Chiefs. Senior Officers from Ministry of Home Affairs, Railway Board, Railway Protection Force and Delhi Police took part in the meeting.

Hon'ble Minister of Railways emphasised the need for better cooperation and coordination between agencies involved for passenger safety, security of tracks and railway property. Minister of State for Home Affairs in his address shared his concern about recent criminal activities on Railways resulting in accidents. He advised State Police to be careful about the designs of criminals, anti-national elements and to render full cooperation to Railways. All the participants of States and Union Territories came up with valuable suggestions to improve safety and security of Railways and also shared their expectations from Railways.

(c) Statutory inquiry into the incident of Train No. 19321 Indore-Rajendra Nagar Terminal (Patna Express) on 20.11.2016 between Pokhrayan and Malasa station on Jhansi-Kanpur section of North Central Railway has been ordered to be conducted to determine the reasons of the accident by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), Eastern Circle, Kolkata under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Unused railway land in Kerala

2667. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the unused railway land in Kerala at present;
- (b) whether Government has formulated any plan to utilize the waste railway land in the States;
- (c) the railway land under unauthorised occupation at present; and
- (d) the steps taken to reclaim such land?