

**Reasons for train accidents**

142. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for train accidents taking place frequently, the recent one being the Vasco Da Gama–Patna Express derailment;

(b) the number of people injured/died in train accidents in the last three years and the amount of compensation paid, if any;

(c) whether any investigation has been initiated/conducted in regard to all the major accidents;

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by Railways to prevent such train accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Train accidents on Indian Railways occur due to various reasons such as failure of equipment, human failure (failure of Railway staff and failure of other than Railway staff), sabotage, combination of factors etc. Inquiry at appropriate level is conducted in each consequential accident to ascertain its reasons. Accordingly, statutory inquiry into the derailment of Train No.12741 Down Vasco Da Gama -Patna Express at Manipur Station between Manikpur-Allahabad Section over Allahabad Division of North Central Railway on 24.11.2017 has been ordered to be conducted to determine the reasons of the accident by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), North Eastern Circle, Lucknow under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(b) During the last three years, as a result of train accidents, 396 persons died and 807 persons were injured. The amount of compensation given to the next of kin of the deceased and injured in train accidents during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Amount Paid (in lakhs of ₹)
2014-15	127.48
2015-16	262.96
2016-17	303.17

(c) and (d) Each and every consequential train accident on Indian Railways (IR) is inquired into either by the Commission of Railway Safety (CRS) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation or the Departmental Inquiry Committee of Railway

to determine the causes of the train accidents. During the last three years *i.e.* 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, altogether 346 consequential train accidents (including incidents at Unmanned Level Crossings) occurred on (IR). 35 train accidents have been inquired into by the Commission of Railway Safety (CRS) and balance have been inquired into by the Departmental Inquiry Committees of the Zonal Railways. The Commission of Railway Safety (CRS) has submitted 30 final reports and 1 preliminary report of train accidents occurred on Indian Railways. The causes of the accidents as established and recommendations as corrective measures to be taken, by the Commission have been accepted and implemented by the Ministry of Railways. The Departmental Inquiry Committees have also submitted their reports as per which the train accidents occurred due to failure of Railway staff, failure on the part of other than Railway Staff, sabotage, incidental factors and combination of factors.

(e) Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent accidents and to enhance safety. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives, safety audits, greater emphasis on training of officials and safety inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Preventive and predictive maintenance of the Railway assets is undertaken to ensure safe train operation. Safety devices/systems being used to prevent accidents include track circuiting, provision of Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), Colour Light LED Signals, Train Protection and Warning Systems (TPWS), Vigilance Control Device (VCD), usage of 60 kg rails and Pre-stressed Concrete Sleepers, long rail panels, better welding technology, use of vehicular USFD for rail flaw detection, mechanized maintenance of track, progressive use of Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) Coaches, Centre Buffer Coupler with Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Coaches, etc. Railway tracks are replaced on age cum condition basis through track renewal works which is an ongoing process. Other measures include training of loco pilots and other safety category staff, improvement of their working conditions including proper rest and periodic medical examination etc. Besides, periodic safety drives, patrolling of tracks, footplate inspections and safety reviews at various levels, etc are regularly conducted to continuously monitor and improve safety aspects of the Indian Railways.