

Revenue loss due to train accidents

†1403. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of train accidents has increased after 2014;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the details of revenue loss incurred due to train accidents during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent train accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. During the last three years, the number of consequential train accidents (including accidents at Unmanned Level Crossings) have decreased from 135 in 2014-15, to 107 in 2015-16 and further to 104 in 2016-17. In the current year (upto 15th December, 2017) the number of consequential train accidents have reduced to 52 as compared to 87 in the corresponding period of the previous year.

(c) During the last three years *i.e.* 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17, loss of property due to consequential train accidents is ₹ 72.07 crore, ₹ 59.24 crore and ₹ 62.29 crore respectively.

(d) Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis including upgradation of technology to aid safe running of trains. These include replacement of over-aged assets, elimination of unmanned level crossings, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training of officials and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Safety devices/systems used to prevent accidents include complete track circuiting, provision of Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Train Protection Warning Systems (TPWS), Colour Light LED Signals, Vigilance Control Device (VCD), usage of 60 kg rails and Pre-stressed Concrete Sleepers, long rail panels, better welding technology, 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 safer Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) Coaches. Existing Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Coaches are being provided with central buffer coupler to have

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

enhanced safety features. Other measures include training of loco pilots and other safety category staff, improvement of their working conditions including proper rest and periodic medical examinations etc. Besides, periodic safety drives, inspections as per laid down schedules, patrolling of tracks, footplate inspections and safety reviews at various levels are regularly conducted to continuously monitor and improve safety aspects of the Railways.

Increasing unreserved passenger coaches

†1404. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the measures taken to increase the unreserved railway passenger coaches in passenger trains, commencement of new train services and to facilitate safe travel for the common train passengers travelling above 500 kilometres in the country; and

(b) with reference to (a) above, by when weekly Express rail service on every Sunday would be started for the convenience of pilgrims visiting Jyotirlinga at Mahakaleshwar, Ujjain and Omkareshwar, Indore from Delhi and Northern India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) To cater to the needs of passengers of un-reserved segment following endeavours have been made by the Indian Railways:—

- (i) As a matter of policy, it has been decided that all the Mail/Express trains (except fully reserved trains like Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Duronto, etc.) introduced after 2007-08, shall have at least 6 general class coaches in their standard composition as per feasibility.
- (ii) Operation of fully unreserved services like Jan Sadharan, Janseva, Jan Nayak Express etc. to facilitate un-reserved segment of passenger. In the Railway Budget 2016-17, it has been further announced to introduce Antyodaya Express, which are long-distance, fully unreserved, superfast train services. Accordingly, of the 11 pairs of Antyodaya trains decided to be introduced during the year 2016-17 and 2017-18, four (4) pairs of Antyodaya Express have already been introduced till date.
- (iii) In pursuance of the announcements made in the Railway Budget 2016-17, regarding attachment of two to four Deen Dayalu coaches in some long distance trains for unreserved travel to enhance our carrying capacity for the masses, Indian Railways have inducted 321 Deen Dayalu

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