

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 311
ANSWERED ON 21.07.2023

INQUIRY REPORT ON BALASORE TRAIN ACCIDENT

311 SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of people who died and those suffered injuries in the Balasore train accident on June 2, 2023;
- (b) whether the Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Eastern Circle has submitted a report after conducting an inquiry into the circumstances that led to this train accident;
- (c) if so, the detailed findings and response of the Government thereon including action taken against those responsible for the accident;
- (d) whether the Government has taken any steps to prevent recurrence of such accidents and ensure safe rail travel; and
- (e) if so, the details thereon?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 311 BY SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 21.07.2023 REGARDING INQUIRY REPORT ON BALASORE TRAIN ACCIDENT.

(a): In the unfortunate Balasore train accident on 02.06.2023, 295 passengers lost their live, 176 sustained grievous injuries, 451 suffered simple injuries and 180 received First Aid Treatment and left.

(b) & (c): Yes, sir.

The rear-collision was due to the lapses in the signalling- circuit-alteration carried out at the North Signal Goomty (of the station) in the past, and during the execution of the signalling work related to replacement of Electric Lifting Barrier for level crossing gate no. 94 at the Station. These lapses resulted in wrong signalling to the Train No. 12841 wherein the UP Home Signal indicated Green aspect for run-through movement on the UP main line of the station, but the crossover connecting the UP main line to the UP loop line (crossover 17 A/B) was set to the UP loop line; the wrong signalling resulted in the Train No. 12841 traversing on the UP loop line, and eventual rear-collision with the Goods train (No. N/DDIP) standing there.

Seven (07) Railway Officials have been suspended and D&AR proceedings have been initiated against these officials.

(d) & (e): On the basis of accident the following action has been taken for ensuring safety in train operation:-

1. Enforcing instruction to follow the protocol for any alteration works involving changes in existing system.
2. Concept of Rolling Block was introduced wherein work of maintenance/repair/replacement is planned for 2 weeks in advance on rolling basis and executed accordingly.
3. Special drive has been launched to ensure
 - (i) Double locking arrangement in Relay Room/Goomties at LC gates, IBH and auto Huts
 - (ii) Data logging and generation of SMS alert for opening/closing of doors of these relay rooms/Goomties.
 - (iii) System of disconnection and reconnection for S&T equipment is being followed strictly as per laid down norms and guidelines.
4. Verification of indoor & outdoor wiring works details of Signalling gears at station.
