

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 596
ANSWERED ON 26.07.2024

DEATHS DUE TO OVERCROWDING ON RAILWAY PLATFORMS

596 SHRI MANOJ KUMAR JHA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware about the fact that thousands of lives are taken away due to stampede like situations on the platforms at railways stations across the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the number of such reported deaths in the last five years, year-wise; and
- (c) the details of the policy level measures taken by Government to regulate rush at overcrowded platforms during prime hours?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 596 BY SHRI MANOJ KUMAR JHA ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 26.07.2024 REGARDING DEATHS DUE TO OVERCROWDING ON RAILWAY PLATFORMS

(a) to (c): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and, therefore, State Governments are responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and maintenance of law and order on Railways through their law enforcement agencies viz. Government Railway Police (GRP)/District Police. Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP/District Police to provide better protection and security to railway property, passenger area and passengers and for matters connected therewith.

During the last five years i.e. 2019 to 2023, one incident of stampede was reported at Burdwan Station over Eastern Railway on 08.11.2019, where 11 persons were injured. No person died in this incident.

In order to regulate rush at platforms and to prevent any untoward incident, following steps are taken by railways in coordination with GRP/Local Police :-

1. Elaborate crowd control arrangements are made at all major and important railway stations, especially during festival or rush periods.
2. Regular and surprise checks are conducted against ticketless travel, which are intensified during peak rush periods.
3. During peak rush period, restricted entry in ticketing areas of platform is allowed on the authority of platform ticket.
4. Queue System is maintained for hassle free boarding of passengers in general coaches of important trains at originating stations.
5. Skilled RPF staff is deployed in CCTV Control Room to keep a close watch on the crowded areas.
6. Additional GRP & RPF personnel are deployed to regulate crowd smoothly in order to avoid stampede like situation during the heavy rush period and to render real time assistance to passengers.
7. Proper announcements are made through Public Address System regarding location of Coaches at platforms. Awareness programs for passenger regarding not to board/deboard in running trains, not to travel on foot board/roof of trains and to keep the doors closed while the train is in motion are also made using various means i.e using Rail Display Network(RDNs), Posters, Banners, announcement using loud hailers etc.

8. Surveillance is kept through CCTV cameras provided in a number of coaches and at Railway Stations for enhanced security of passengers.
9. Intelligence units(CIB/SIB) and plain cloth staff are deployed for collection of intelligence regarding probability of rush and accordingly arrangements are made associating GRP/Police.
10. Coordination with GRP/State Police and concerned railway departments is made for ensuring crowd management.
