

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 209
ANSWERED ON 13.12.2024

DISRUPTION IN RAILWAYS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

*209. SHRI ANIL KUMAR YADAV MANDADI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the fact that many instances of cable cut in the railways communication system has heightened the risk of accidents across the railway network in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has undertaken a study regarding the instances of cable cut and fixed any responsibility on persons/organisations/ contractors for such instances;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, Zone-wise;
- (e) whether Government has made any thorough review of optical fibre communication system across the entire railway network in the country recently; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 209 BY SHRI ANIL KUMAR YADAV MANDADI ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 13.12.2024 REGARDING DISRUPTION IN RAILWAYS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

(a) to (f): Indian Railways manages a robust communication system featuring path diversity and adequate redundancy. During failure of communication system due to cable cut there exist provisions in General and Subsidiary Rules (G&SR) and manuals of Indian Railways for safe working of trains. Guidelines have been issued for laying of new cables in ducts, utility shifting of existing cable and also for undertaking digging work in the vicinity of signalling, electrical and telecommunication cables, based on the recommendations of a committee of Senior Administrative Grade officers. The guidelines also ensure proper coordination between different departments, and provision of penalty/disciplinary action on erring organisations/contractors/staff.

In order to further minimise cable cuts, pilot project of overhead cables on OHE mast is also envisaged.

Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) based communication system has been modernised to support higher data rates and advance technologies like Automatic Train Protection System (KAVACH), VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) based Train Control Communication system and Long-Term Evolution (LTE).
