

[7 March, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

Train accident near Kurnool in AP

1811. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received report of Hyderabad-Bangalore Express accident near R.S. Pendekallu village in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) if so, whether the inquiry report reveals that it was a case of sabotage;

(c) whether initially, the police have put it as a track fault;

(d) if so, to what extent, this inquiry has revealed the facts of the accident;

(e) the number of persons killed and injured in this accident;

(f) whether both Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka State Governments have provided help and assistance to those who were killed and injured; and

(g) if so, details of compensation paid by both the State Governments to the victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Central Circle has submitted his preliminary report and has provisionally concluded that the accident occurred due to tampering with the track by way of cutting of left hand side rail by hacksaw and thereafter pushing its Pagidirai end inside by an unauthorized person other than Railway staff. He has classified the accident under the category of 'tampering with track by unauthorised persons other than Railway staff. In this unfortunate accident, 19 persons lost their lives and 78 were injured. The final inquiry report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety is awaited. However, in this preliminary report, he has stated that prompt relief and medical assistance was provided.

(g) Compensation for death or injury of Rail passengers in train accidents decided by Railway Claims Tribunal. Compensation will be paid

soon after the claims are decreed by the Tribunal. However, ex-gratia amounting to Rs. 22.90 lakhs has been paid to next of kin of the victims of the accident to take care of their immediate needs.

Stoppage to Motihari Muzaffarpur Intercity Express

1812. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the local population are demanding the stoppage of Motihari-Muzaffarpur Intercity Express at Kanti Railway Station in Bihar; and

(b) if so, when it is likely to be implemented and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Some representations were received for provision of stoppage of trains at Kanti Railway station and these were examined. However, stoppage of additional trains at Kanti has not been found commercially viable, at present.

Purchase of Substandard Rail Tracks

†1813. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item published at page 10 of the Rashtriya Sahara dated the 26th December, 2002 under the caption 'Aksar hydrogen ki adhik matra se tutati hain rail patriyan';

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railway Diploma Engineers' Association has also blamed for the purchase of low quality railway tracks;

(c) if so, the Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to ensure that high quality tracks are purchased in future?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.