

Decline in Consequential Train Accidents on Railways

Number of train accidents has shown a declining trend during the last few years. While, 115 consequential train accidents on account of collisions, derailments, fire in trains, manned level crossing accidents and other miscellaneous accidents occurred on Indian Railways in 2008-09, 100 such accidents took place in 2009-10.

Out of 115 train accidents in 2008-09, 22 have been inquired into by the Commission of Railway Safety and the balance 93 accidents were inquired into by the departmental committees. Out of 100 train accidents in 2009-10, 21 have been inquired into by the Commission of Railway Safety and the balance 79 accidents were inquired into by the departmental committees.

Human error is one of the major reasons for rail accidents. However, negligence of road users while negotiating unmanned level crossings is also responsible for a large number of incidents at unmanned level crossings.

Special attention has been given for training of railway staff in general and safety category employees in particular for their induction training, refresher courses and promotional courses at Zonal Railway Training Institutes. Zonal Railways closely monitor the performance and alertness of the running and operating staff. Safety drives are also launched at frequent intervals for this purpose. All possible steps are also undertaken on a continuing basis to prevent accidents by way of replacement of over aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of tracks, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems etc.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Railways, Shri K.H. Muniyappa in a written reply in Lok Sabha today.