

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 05.08.2011**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**TRAIN ACCIDENTS .**

730

Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi

Will the Minister of COAL, COAL, PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS RAILWAYS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that Kalka-Howrah Mail and Guwahati-Puri Express had met with an accident on 10th July, 2011 and an incident of fire had taken place in Patna- Rajdhani on 12th July, 2011;
- (b) if so, the reasons for these accidents;
- (c) the number of lives lost and the amount of property destroyed in each of these accidents;
- (d) the kind of relief provided to the victim families by Government; and
- (e) the steps being taken by Government to stop the accidents?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI)

(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. 730 BY SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI AND SHRI MOTILAL VORA TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 05.08.2011 REGARDING TRAIN ACCIDENTS.

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. On 10.07.2011 at 12.20 hrs., while the Train No. 12311 Kalka Mail was passing through Malwan station of Allahabad Division of North Central Railway, its locomotive and 15 coaches derailed blocking both up and down lines. In this unfortunate accident, 70 persons lost their lives, 87 suffered grievous injuries and 166 suffered simple injuries. Statutory inquiry into the derailment of Kalka Mail is being conducted by the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety (CCRS) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation based at Lucknow. CCRS, in his Preliminary Report has concluded that the accident had occurred due to breakage of rail across the weld between left tongue and lead rails and accordingly, he has attributed the cause of the accident to 'Failure of Equipment- Permanent Way'. Loss of railway property has been estimated at Rs. 4.40 Crore ( approx.). In the second incident, on 10.07.2011 at about 20.15 hrs., while the train No. 15640 Guwahati- Puri Express was on run between Rangiya and Ghograpar stations of Rangiya Division of Northeast Frontier Railway, there was an explosion on the track and due to its impact, the locomotive along with four coaches derailed and four other coaches were thrown off the track. In this incident, no fatality took place; 03 persons suffered grievous injuries and 13 others received simple injuries. Loss of railway property is estimated to be Rs. 2.35 crore (approx.). Statutory enquiry into the derailment of Guwahati-Puri Express has been conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), Northeast Frontier Circle under the Ministry of Civil Aviation based at Kolkata. In his preliminary report the CRS has stated that the derailment was caused due to an act of train wrecking by planting certain explosive device/bomb in the track and triggering the same by a remote control or otherwise in the face of the approaching train by some unknown person(s). Accordingly, the cause of the accident has been attributed to 'Sabotage'. An unusual incident of minor fire in the rear generator car of Train No. 12309 Patna- New Delhi Rajdhani Express took place between Tilak Bridge and Sahibabad Stations of Delhi Division of Northern Railway at 16.48 hrs. on 12.07.2011. No injury or fatality took place in this incident. This unusual incident has been inquired into by a departmental inquiry committee. The cause has been identified as choking of air filter.

(d): In the case of derailment of Kalka Mail, medical relief was immediately despatched through Accident Relief Medical Trains from Kanpur and Allahabad which reached the accident site at about 14.10 hrs and 14.25 hrs, respectively. Rescue and medical teams from Army and Indian Air Force were also pressed into service within a short period and three helicopters including Air Ambulances reached the site at around 16.40 hrs. The injured passengers were immediately shifted to nearby Government and private hospitals at Kanpur, Fatehpur and Allahabad. The civil authorities also provided local help to shift the injured to nearby hospitals. In the case of derailment of Guwahati-Puri Express, railway medical teams with doctors and paramedical staff rushed from Rangiya by road and reached the site within half an hour or so. The injured were shifted to Railway hospital at Maligaon and Civil Hospitals at Rangiya and Nalbadi. No fatality took place in this accident. On humanitarian grounds, enhanced ex-gratia amount of Rs. 5 lakhs each to the next of the

kin of the deceased, Rs. 1 lakh each to the grievously injured and Rs. 25000/- to each simple injured person has been announced in the case of derailment of Kalka Mail. So far, an amount of Rs. 1.32 crore (approx.) has been disbursed towards ex-gratia to the victims of this incident. Enhanced ex-gratia amount of Rs. 1 lakh each has been announced to each grievously injured and Rs. 10000/- to each simple injured in the case of derailment of Guwahati- Puri Express. Ex-gratia amount totalling to Rs. 4.30 lakhs has been disbursed to the victims of this incident. In addition, compensation shall also be payable to these victims on the basis of claims to be filed by them in the Railway Claims Tribunal and decrees awarded by the Tribunal.

(e): Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continuing basis to prevent accidents and to enhance safety. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training of officials and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Safety devices/systems being introduced to prevent accidents include provision of Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), Fog Safe Device, Vigilance Control Device (VCD), Anti Collision Device (ACD)/ Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS), Train Protection Warning System (TPWS), etc.