

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 465
ANSWERED ON 04.02.2022

COMPENSATION TO BIKANER EXPRESS ACCIDENT VICTIMS

465 # SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
SMT. CHHAYA VERMA:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether compensation amount announced by Government to the passengers killed in the Bikaner-Guwahati Express at Jalpaiguri of West Bengal is in addition to railway passenger insurance;
- (b) the amount which is being charged per passenger as railway passenger insurance at present and in lieu of that the compensation which is being given to the dependents of the passengers killed in the accident; and
- (c) the compensation amount which has been provided by insurance companies to the dependents of the passengers killed in the Bikaner – Guwahati Express at Jalpaiguri, West Bengal?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a): Railway's liability for compensation for death or injury of railway passengers in train accidents is laid down in Section 124 read with Section 123 of Railways Act, 1989. Admissibility of compensation is decided by Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT) on the basis of a claim application filed by claimants before them. Railway Administration is liable to pay compensation to rail passengers only when a decree is awarded by Hon'ble RCT in favour of the claimant. Presently, the scale of Compensation is ₹ 08 lakh in case of death of passengers.

However, enhanced ex-gratia is given purely on humanitarian grounds as has been announced by Hon'ble Minister of Railways in the Bikaner- Guwahati Express Train Accident also, wherein enhanced ex-gratia of ₹ 05 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased has been decided to be paid.

The compensation and enhanced ex-gratia are in addition to ₹ 10 Lakh which is given under the Optional Travel Insurance Scheme. However, this Optional Insurance Scheme is available only to the railway passengers opting to buy this insurance while buying online e-ticket through official website of Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).

Contd..2/-

(b): At present, a premium of ₹ 0.35 (i.e 35 paisa) per passenger per trip is being charged from Rail Passengers opting for travel insurance. ₹ 10 Lakh is given in case of death under this scheme.

(c): At present, no insurance amount has been given by the Insurance companies as the dependents of the passengers killed in the accident, have not yet filed their insurance claim with the concerned Insurance companies.
