

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1265
ANSWERED ON 16.12.2022

DEATH OF RAILWAY TRACK MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL

1265 SHRI A. A. RAHIM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have details on the number of track maintenance personnel who have lost their lives having been hit by trains during duty, the State-wise details for last five years;
- (b) the steps taken to avoid such deaths which are completely preventable, why has train alarm device such as Rakshak has not been provided yet; and
- (c) the compensation provided to the bereaved families, whether there is any plan to increase the compensation?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS &
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1265 BY SHRI A. A. RAHIM ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 16.12.2022 REGARDING DEATH OF RAILWAY TRACK MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL

(a) State-wise details for last five years regarding the number of track maintenance personnel who have lost their lives having been hit by trains during duty, are as under:

S. No.	NAME OF STATE/ Union Territory	Number of Track Maintenance Personnel who lost their lives having been hit by trains during duty for last five years (From 2018 to Till 05.12.2022)
		Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	33
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	NIL
3.	Assam	06
4.	Bihar	29
5.	Chhattisgarh	14
6.	Goa	NIL
7.	Delhi	03
8.	Gujarat	12
9.	Haryana	13
10.	Himachal Pradesh	NIL
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	NIL
12.	Jharkhand	17
13.	Karnataka	05
14.	Kerala	08
15.	Madhya Pradesh	26
16.	Maharashtra	48
17.	Manipur	NIL
18.	Meghalaya	NIL
19.	Mizoram	NIL
20.	Nagaland	NIL
21.	Odisha	09
22.	Punjab	10
23.	Rajasthan	27
24.	Tamil Nadu	10
25.	Telangana	09
26.	Tripura	02
27.	Uttar Pradesh	61
28.	Uttarakhand	05
29.	West Bengal	35

(b) The details of safety measures taken to avoid deaths of track maintainers while working close to track are as under:

1. Regular counseling of track maintainers is being done through seminars/workshops for “personal safety first” while working near the track.
2. Personal protective equipments viz. Luminous vests, Safety helmets, miner light/tri-colour torch, safety shoes, retro-reflective/high-visibility jackets and light weight improved tools & equipments have been provided to track maintainers.
3. Work site remote control hooter and whistle has been provided to all gangs to warn the working personnel about the approaching train. Lookout men are also deputed where necessary to watch for the approaching train.
4. Speed restrictions on adjacent lines are imposed while taking up track renewal works by Track Relaying Train (TRT) and Ballast Cleaning Machines (BCM) in view of safety.
5. Periodic medical examinations are being done to ascertain the fitness of track personnel.

Work of provision of Very High Frequency (VHF) based Approaching Train Warning System (RAKSHAK) for track maintainers on Golden Quadrilateral-Golden Diagonal routes on Indian Railways costing ₹ 91.61 Crores has been sanctioned. However, the system has following limitations:

- (i) The system is not effective in hilly terrain, deep cuttings, tunnels and sharp curves, where there is obstruction in line of sight.
- (ii) The system does not work fully in Automatic Block Signalling Territory where number of trains ply in single block section at close interval and signals are placed 1 kilometer apart.
- (iii) The system does not function on sections with more than two lines.

(c) Ex-gratia compensation is paid to the families of Railway employees who die in harness in performance of bonafide official duties under various circumstances. The powers to sanction ex-gratia compensation have been delegated to Divisional Railway Managers of Zonal Railways. Instructions issued from time to time by Department of Pension and Pensioners’ Welfare under Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions are followed in the matter.
