

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 298**  
**ANSWERED ON 21.07.2023**

**ELECTRONIC SIGNAL OPERATIONS IN RAILWAYS**

298. SHRI NARAYANA KORAGAPPA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that on February 8, 2023 bypassing of electronic interlock system occurred due to the manual changes deployed by Electronic Signal Maintainer (ESM) at Hosadurga Road Station, Mysuru Division, Karnataka;
- (b) if so, details thereof;
- (c) whether any mishap was averted;
- (d) if so, details thereof;
- (e) whether it is a fact that ESMs often bypass electronic system and change signal from location box to prevent error display in the system;
- (f) steps undertaken to sensitise signal staff to deploy no shortcuts, no bypassing of rules and procedures; and
- (g) details of steps undertaken for near zero or zero-manual intervention in electronic signal operations?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND  
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d) The details of Hosadurga Road station incident are as follows:

1. On 8 Feb 2023 the Signalling Electronic Signal Maintainer (ESM) was attending the Block Proving Axle Counter of UP main line at Hosadurga station.
2. The ESM and his assistant did not follow the laid down procedure, due to which an unusual condition got created.
3. The train was to start from the common loop toward UP main line. The unusual condition was detected by the Loco Pilot who informed to the station master for corrective action. As a result no untoward incident took place.

(e) No sir.

(f) to (g)

1. Intensive Safety drive carried out on staff counselling to adopt proper & laid down procedure while maintenance and attending signalling failures.
2. Concept of Rolling Block introduced wherein work of maintenance/repair/replacement is planned for 2 weeks in advance on rolling basis and executed as per plan.
3. Intensive Safety drive for verification of all relay room and outdoor location particulars for correctness with site and drawings is under progress over and above the regular safety Inspections.
4. Indian Railways is in continuous process of upgrading its signalling system from Mechanical to Electro – mechanical to Electronic Interlocking.
5. Development of direct driving feature in Electronic Interlocking.
6. Continuous training of staff at regular interval.

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