

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 301
ANSWERED ON 21.07.2023

DEDICATED RAILWAY FUND FOR RAIL SAFETY

301 SHRI M. SHANMUGAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- a) whether the Government has created a separate fund called Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK), a dedicated fund to improve railway safety in the year 2017;
- b) if so, the details thereof and the total amount in the kitty, as on 30.06.2023;
- c) whether many irregularities and misuse of funds were reported by Comptroller and Auditor General Audit paras, in the last three years; and
- d) if so, action taken against persons responsible for the misuse and remedial measures taken, details thereon?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid down on the Table of The House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 301 BY SHRI M. SHANMUGAM ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 21.07.2023 REGARDING DEDICATED RAILWAY FUND FOR RAIL SAFETY

(a) & (b): Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK) was created in 2017-18 for execution of assessed safety works with corpus of Rs.1 lakh crore over a period of five years. The projects taken up under this Fund relate to Track Renewal, Bridges, Signalling, Rolling Stock and Training & Amenities for safety critical staff. RRSK works are to be funded from Gross Budgetary Support and Railways revenue/resources; including mobilisation of resources through Extra Budgetary Resources (EBR), as per Ministry of Finance guidelines on RRSK. From 2017-18 till 2021-22 a gross expenditure of Rs.1.08 lakh crore was incurred on RRSK works.

The closing balance as on 31.03.2023 in RRSK is Rs.144 crore after appropriation to the Fund and meeting of expenditure therefrom.

(c) & (d) Safety critical staff like drivers keep continuous watch on track and signals. This involves standing. Therefore, the quality of rest is very important. To have loco pilots/assistant loco pilots well rested before the next duty, amenities like foot massager, yoga mats, fitness facilities, kitchen utensils were recommended for running rooms, in the technical report submitted by Centre for Advance Maintenance Technology (CAMTECH) in 2013. Laptops and computers were also provided for safety related Track Management System application besides training of safety manpower. Hence, the expenditures were based on set guidelines for procurement of up gradation of running room and training staff etc. directly related with safety of train running.

C&AG in its performance audit report No 22 of 2022 on “Derailment in Indian Railways” has observed that some of the expenditure booked to RRSK was in non-priority items. Railways has replied to the audit observation in the Action Taken Note, stating that these expenditures are covered by policy letters and technical report of CAMTECH on Running Room Facilities. Accordingly, a limited expenditure on equipment and gear for safety critical staff has been booked to RRSK on some Railways. C&AG in its report has observed certain accounting classification issues which have been reviewed.
