

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 302
ANSWERED ON 21.07.2023

IDENTIFICATION OF BODIES AFTER BALASORE TRAIN ACCIDENT

302 SHRI M. SHANMUGAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) details of number of passengers who died and those who were injured in Balasore train accident recently;
- (b) whether all the dead bodies have been identified through DNA test and those who were handed over to the next of kin, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether compensation has been paid to the next of kin of the deceased, grievously injured, simple injured, the details thereof; and
- (d) details of progress of statutory inquiry and the CBI enquiry?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 302 BY SHRI M. SHANMUGAM ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 21.07.2023 REGARDING IDENTIFICATION OF BODIES AFTER BALASORE TRAIN ACCIDENT

(a) & (b): In the unfortunate train accident at Bahanaga Bazar Station (near Balasore) on 02.06.2023, 295 passengers lost their lives, 176 sustained grievous injuries, 451 suffered simple injuries and 180 received First Aid Treatment and left. In the said train accident 254 deceased persons have been identified and their bodies handed over; 41 deceased persons are yet to be identified.

(c): Yes, Sir. Till 16th July, 2023, Rs.29.49 Crores has been paid as enhanced ex-gratia @Rs. 10 Lakh to the next of kin of each deceased, @Rs. 2 Lakh each to the grievously injured and @Rs. 50,000/- each to the passengers with simple injury.

In addition to this, Railways pays compensation to the next of kin of deceased or victims depending upon nature and type of injuries sustained. Compensation is paid by the Railways as per decree passed by Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT) on the compensation claims application filed by the victims or their dependents. Hon'ble Chairman, Railway Claims Tribunal, Principal Bench, Delhi has taken suo-moto cognizance of the unfortunate rail accident that occurred and has passed judicial order dated 15.06.2023 to respective benches to settle the claim cases expeditiously. As on 13.07.2023, 258 claim cases have been received in various benches of the Railway Claims Tribunal, out of which, 51 claims cases have been disposed off.

(d): The statutory inquiry has been finalized by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Ministry of Civil Aviation. The cause of the accident as reported by the CRS is as follows:

The rear-collision was due to the lapses in the signalling-circuit-alteration carried out at the North Signal Goomty (of the station) in the past, and during the execution of the signalling work related to replacement of Electric Lifting Barrier for level crossing gate no. 94 at the Station. These lapses resulted in wrong signalling to the Train No. 12841 wherein the UP Home Signal indicated Green aspect for run-through movement on the UP main line of the station, but the crossover connecting the UP main line to the UP loop line (crossover 17A/B) was set to the UP loop line; the wrong signalling resulted in the Train No.12841 traversing on the UP loop line, and eventual rear-collision with the Goods train (No. N/DDIP) standing there.

The CBI(Central Bureau of Investigation) is an independent body established under Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946. It is conducting its inquiry as per provisions of the law.
