

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 307**  
**ANSWERED ON 21.07.2023**

**FLAWS IN SIGNALLING SYSTEM**

307. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Principal Chief Operating Manager of South Western Railway zone raised concerns about the signal failure of an express train and highlighted the serious flaws in the signalling system in February 2023;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) details of the total number of signal failures in the last five years, year-wise; and
- (d) the corrective measures taken by Railways in this regards?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND  
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a),(b) and (d)

1. On 8 Feb 2023 the Signalling Electrical Signal Maintainer (ESM) was attending the Block Proving Axle Counter of UP main line at Hosadurga station of South Western Railway.
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. However there was no flaw in the Signalling system.
4. Normally, the operating department brings any unusual situation to the notice of concerned engineering department. In this case also, the Operating department officer (Principal Chief Operating Manager, South Western Railway) brought this unusual situation to the notice of Signalling & Telecom department officer (Principal Chief Signal and Telecom Engineer, South Western Railway).

5. Subsequently other than taking up the staff under disciplinary rules :
- a. Intensive Safety drive carried out on staff counselling to adopt proper & laid down procedure while maintenance and attending signalling failures.
  - b. 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.
  - c. 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.

(c) In the last five years, the total numbers of signalling failures leading to incidences are 13.

Year	Incidences	Out of which consequential accidents	Out of which Deaths
2018-19	3	3	0
2019-20	4	2	0
2020-21	0	0	0
2021-22	1	1	0
2022-23	5	1	0

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