

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2202**  
**ANSWERED ON 09.08.2024**

**ACCIDENT OF CHANDIGARH DIBRUGARH EXPRESS**

2202 SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:  
SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of number of passengers who died and the details of passengers injured in Chandigarh Dibrugarh Express' rail accident on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2024;
- (b) the details of ex-gratia and compensation announced and paid till date to the victims;
- (c) whether acute shortage of railway staff, non-maintenance of signalling system and failure of timely installment of Kavach system on each route of Indian Railways are main reasons for recent increase in accidents; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for endangering passenger's safety?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND  
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

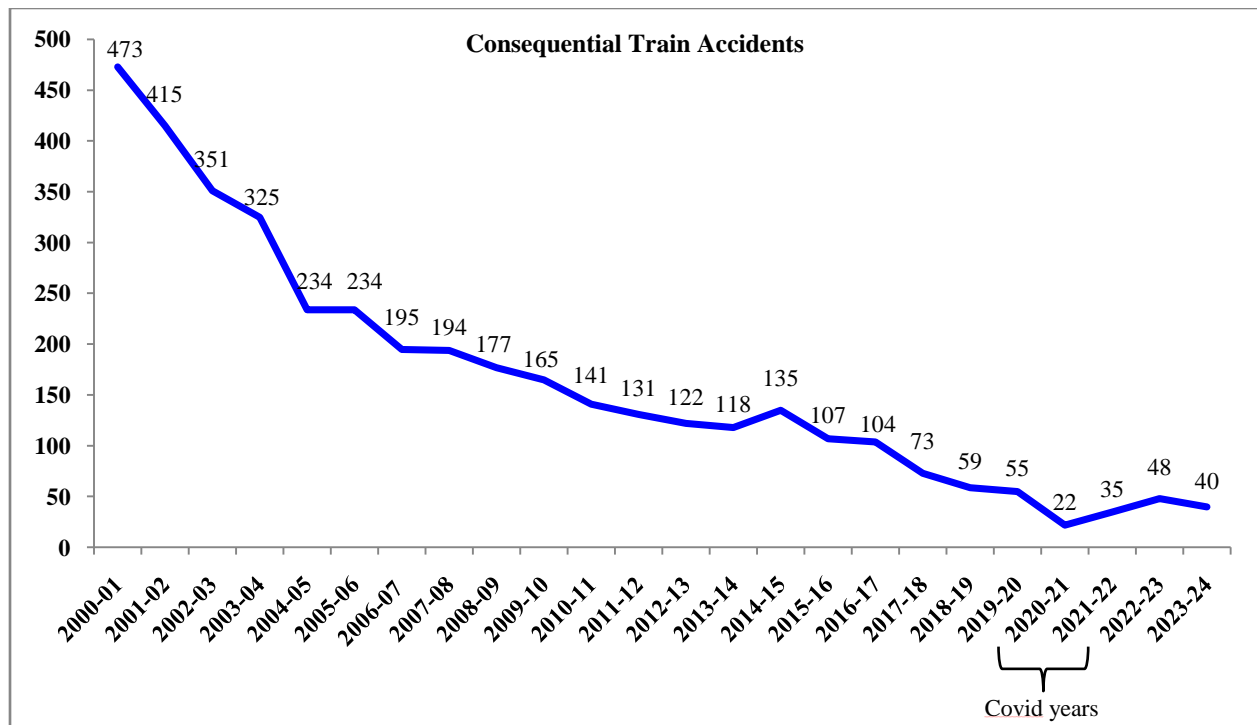
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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2202 BY SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN AND SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 09.08.2024 REGARDING ACCIDENT OF CHANDIGARH DIBRUGARH EXPRESS**

(a) to (d): As a consequence of various safety measures taken over the years, there has been a steep decline in the number of accidents. Consequential Train Accidents have reduced from 473 in 2000-01 to 40 in 2023-24 as shown in the graph below.

It may be noted that the consequential train accidents during the period 2004-14 was 1711 (average 171 per annum), which has declined to 678 during the period 2014-24 (average 68 per annum).

Another important index showing improved safety in train operations is Accidents Per Million Train Kilometer (APMTKM) which has reduced from 0.65 in 2000-01 to 0.03 in 2023-24, indicating an improvement of more than 95% during the said period.



Consequential Train Accidents on Indian Railways and casualties therein:

Period	No. of Consequential Train Accidents	No. of Deaths	No. of Injuries
2004-05 to 2013-14	1711	904	3155
2014-15 to 2023-24	678	748	2087

In Chandigarh-Dibrugarh Express Train Accident (Gonda Train Accident) that took place on 18.07.2024, 04 passengers lost their lives and 12 sustained injuries. In this train accident, enhanced ex-gratia payment of Rs.54.50 lakh has been made to the next of kin of the deceased victims and the injured, purely on humanitarian grounds. Further, compensation is paid for death and injury of Railway passengers on the basis of claim application filed by victims or their dependents before Railway Claims Tribunal and as per the decree awarded by Railway Claims Tribunal.

To ensure safety and reliability of signalling system on Indian Railways, maintenance of signalling gears is carried out as per provisions of maintenance schedules prescribed in Indian Railways Signal Engineering Manual (IRSEM) 2021.

IR is installing KAVACH which is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system. Kavach is a highly technology intensive system, which requires safety certification of highest order. Kavach aids the loco pilot in train running within specified speed limits by automatic application of brakes in case Loco Pilot fails to do so and also helps the train to run safely during inclement weather. Implementation of Kavach involves execution of many activities, such as:

- a. Installation of Station Kavach at each and every station.
- b. Installation of RFID tags throughout the track length.
- c. Installation of Telecom Towers throughout the section.
- d. Laying of optical Fibre cable along the track.
- e. Provision of Loco Kavach on each and every Locomotive running on Indian Railways.

Kavach has so far been deployed on 1465 Route km and 144 locomotives on South Central Railway. Presently, the progress of main items related to Kavach on Delhi– Mumbai & Delhi– Howrah corridors (approximately 3000 Route km) is as under:

- (i) Laying of Optical Fibre Cable: 4275 Km
- (ii) Installation of Telecom Towers: 364 Nos.
- (iii) Provision of equipment at Stations: 285 Nos.
- (iv) Provision of equipment in Loco: 319 Locos
- (v) Installation of Track side equipments: 1384 Route Km.

Indian Railways has also prepared Detailed Project Report (DPR) and Detailed Estimate on another 6000 Rkm. On 16.07.2024, Kavach 4.0 specification has been approved by RDSO. This version covers all the major features required for the diverse railway network. This is a significant milestone in safety for Indian Railways. Within a short period, IR has developed, tested and started deploying Automatic Train Protection System. Kavach is provided progressively in phased manner.

Occurrence and filling up of vacancies are continuous process on Indian Railways considering its size, spatial distribution and criticality of operation. The vacancies are filled up primarily by placement of indents by Railways with Recruitment agencies as per operational and technological requirements. Adequate and suitable manpower is provided to cater to the regular operations taking into account changes in technology, mechanizations and innovative practices.

After easing of restrictions imposed on account of COVID 19, two major examinations involving more than 2.37 crore candidates have been conducted successfully.

Computer Based Test (CBT) exam for more than 1.26 crore candidates was conducted in 7 phases from 28.12.2020 to 31.07.2021 in 133 shifts in 68 days across 211 cities and 726 centres.

Similarly, CBT was conducted for more than 1.1 crore candidates in 5 phases from 17.08.2022 to 11.10.2022 in 99 shifts in 33 days across 191 cities and 551 centres.

Based on these exams, 1,30,581 candidates have been recruited in railways.

The RRB examinations are quite technical in nature entailing large scale mobilization of men and resources and training of manpower. Railway overcame all these challenges and successfully conducted the recruitment in a transparent manner following all laid down guidelines. No instance of paper leakage or similar malpractice has occurred during the entire process.

Recruitment done in Indian Railways during 2004-2014 vis-à-vis during 2014 – 2024 is given as under. Majority of the recruitment done is in safety categories.

<b>Period</b>	<b>Recruitments</b>
2004-14	4.11 lakh
2014-24	5.02 lakh

Further, as system improvement, the Ministry of Railways has introduced a system of publishing annual calendar this year for recruitment to various categories of Group 'C' posts. Accordingly, five Centralized Employment Notifications (CENs) for 40,554 vacancies have been notified during January to July 2024 for filling up of posts of Assistant Loco Pilots, Technicians, Sub-Inspectors & Constables in Railway Protection Force (RPF), Junior Engineers, Depot Material Superintendents and Chemical and Metallurgical Supervisors. The introduction of annual calendar will benefit the aspirants in the following manner:

- More opportunities for candidates;
- Opportunities to those becoming eligible every year;
- Certainty of exams;
- Faster Recruitment process, Training and Appointments

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