GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 146
ANSWERED ON 01.08.2025

TRAIN DERAILMENTS DUE TO SABOTAGE

*146 SHRI SAKET GOKHALE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister of Railways had stated in September, 2024 that there is a possibility of sabotage and terrorism behind train derailments in India, if so, whether there has been any conclusive evidence which proves the same; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has ruled out the possibility of any sabotage or terrorism in the cases of train derailments in India?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) & (b) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) AND (b) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.146 BY SHRI SAKET GOKHALE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 01.08.2025 REGARDING TRAIN DERAILMENTS DUE TO SABOTAGE.

(a) & (b) Indian Railway is focused on safety of passengers. Any unusual incident is thoroughly investigated. Wherever a non-technical reason is suspected, the help of State Police is taken. In some cases, the guidance of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and National Investigation Agency (NIA) is also considered. For example, in the case of Bahanaga Bazar train accident, the criminal investigation was done by CBI. However, the primary means of investigation is through the State Police. This is in line with the constitutional arrangements under which the investigation of criminal activity and maintenance of Law and Order is responsibility of the State Government.

As per the data received from State Police, 82 cases of sabotage/tampering with railway tracks were registered during the year 2024 by various State Police. These cases include removal of fittings, placing boulders/iron rods/OHE pole/rail piece on the tracks etc.

03 incidents of sabotage were also registered by National Investigation Agency since 2009. During investigation, in one case evidence of sabotage was established and the chargesheet was submitted in court of law where 06 accused were convicted. One case is under investigation, and one has been filed for closure due to lack of evidence.

In order to prevent any incident of sabotage/attempted sabotage, the following steps are being taken by railways:-

- Regular State Level Security Committee of Railways (SLSCR) meetings are being conducted, which have been constituted in each State under the chairmanship of DGPs/Commissioner of police of respective States/Union territory with representatives of RPF, GRP and Intelligence units. Further close liaison is made by RPF with the State Police/GRP authorities at all levels to control Crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of Law & Order in Railway premises as well as on running trains with focus on sabotage incidents, sharing of intelligence. Effective steps are being undertaken to prevent such incidents.
- Besides Central & State Intelligence agencies, Intelligence unit of RPF i.e. CIB & SIB have been sensitized and instructed to collect intelligence and take necessary action in coordination with Police authorities for detection and prevention of sabotage attempts.
- Frequent patrolling of identified black spots and vulnerable sections are being done by Railwaymen, RPF, GRP & Civil Police.

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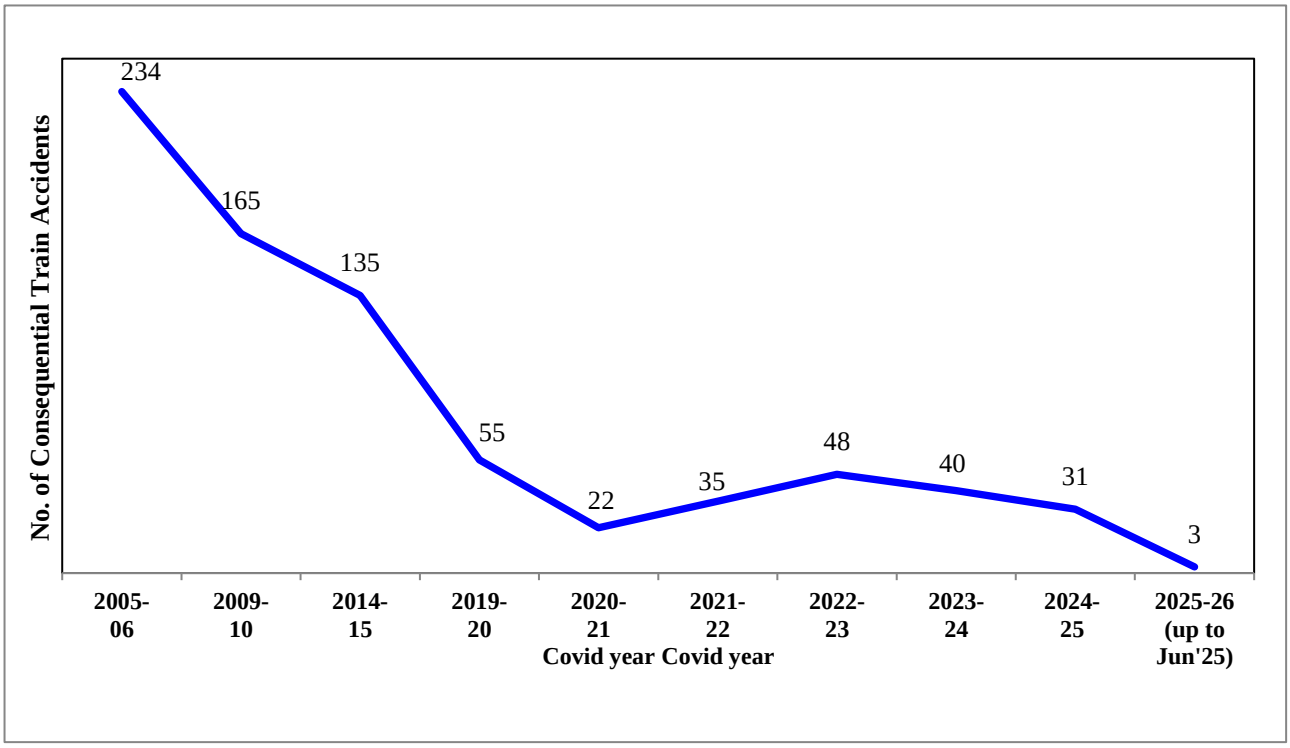
- Regular drives are conducted to remove material lying near to the railway tracks which can potentially be used by miscreants for obstruction by putting those materials on railway track.
- The people living near railway track are being sensitized about the consequences of putting foreign material on track, removing rail components etc. and are requested to keep watch and report any suspected activity immediately.
- Special teams are formed to patrol high-risk areas, vulnerable sections and sharing of intelligence to mitigate threats effectively.

Safety in Train operations

Safety is accorded the highest priority on Indian Railways. 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 135 in 2014-15 to 31 in 2024-25 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 31 in 2024-25 and further to 3 in 2025-26 (upto June).

Another important index showing improved safety in train operations is Accidents Per Million Train Kilometer (APMTKM) which has reduced from 0.11 in 2014-15 to 0.03 in 2024-25, indicating an improvement of approx. 73% during the said period.



The various safety measures taken to enhance safety in train operations are as under:-

1. On Indian Railways, the expenditure on Safety related activities has increased over the years as under:-

Expenditure on Safety related activities (Rs. in Cr.)					
	2013-14 (Act.)	2022-23 (Act.)	2023-24 (Act.)	RE 2024-25	BE 2025-26
Maintenance of Permanent Way & Works	9,172	18,115	20,322	21,800	23,316
Maintenance of Motive Power and Rolling Stock	14,796	27,086	30,864	31,540	30,666
Maintenance of Machines	5,406	9,828	10,772	12,112	12,880
Road Safety LCs and ROBs/ RUBs	1,986	5,347	6,662	8,184	7,706
Track Renewals	4,985	16,326	17,850	22,669	22,800
Bridge Works	390	1,050	1,907	2,130	2,169
Signal & Telecom Works	905	2,456	3,751	6,006	6,800
Workshops Incl. PUs and Misc. expenditure on Safety	1,823	7,119	9,523	9,581	10,134
Total	39,463	87,327	1,01,651	1,14,022	1,16,470

2. Electrical/Electronic Interlocking Systems with centralized operation of points and signals have been provided at 6,635 stations up to 30.06.2025 to reduce accident due to human failure.
3. Interlocking of Level Crossing (LC) Gates has been provided at 11,096 level Crossing Gates up to 30.06.2025 for enhancing safety at LC gates.
4. Complete Track Circuiting of stations to enhance safety by verification of track occupancy by electrical means has been provided at 6,640 stations up to 30.06.2025.
5. Kavach is a highly technology intensive system, which requires safety certification of highest order. Kavach was adopted as a National ATP system in July 2020. Kavach is provided progressively in phased manner. Kavach has already been deployed on 1548 RKm on South

Central Railway and North Central Railway. Presently, the work is in progress on Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah corridors (approximately 3000 RKm). Kavach has been successfully commissioned over Kota-Mathura section (Delhi-Mumbai route) covering 324 kms on 30.07.2025

6. Detailed instructions on issues related with safety of Signalling, e.g. mandatory correspondence check, alteration work protocol, preparation of completion drawing, etc. have been issued.
7. System of disconnection and reconnection for S&T equipment as per protocol has been re-emphasized.
8. All locomotives are equipped with Vigilance Control Devices (VCD) to improve the alertness of Loco Pilots.
9. Retro-reflective sigma boards are provided on the mast which is located two OHE masts prior to the signals in electrified territories to alert the crew about the signal ahead when visibility is low due to foggy weather.
10. A GPS based Fog Safety Device (FSD) is provided to loco pilots in fog affected areas which enables loco pilots to know the distance of the approaching landmarks like signals, level crossing gates, etc.
11. Modern track structure consisting of 60kg, 90 Ultimate Tensile Strength (UTS) rails, Prestressed Concrete Sleeper (PSC) Normal/Wide base sleepers with elastic fastening, fan shaped layout turnout on PSC sleepers, Steel Channel/H-beam Sleepers on girder bridges is used while carrying out primary track renewals.
12. Mechanisation of track laying activity through use of track machines like PQRS, TRT, T-28 etc. to reduce human errors.
13. Maximizing supply of 130m/260m long rail panels for increasing progress of rail renewal and avoiding welding of joints, thereby improving safety.
14. Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) testing of rails to detect flaws and timely removal of defective rails.
15. Laying of longer rails, minimizing the use of Alumino Thermic Welding and adoption of better welding technology for rails i.e., Flash Butt Welding.
16. Monitoring of track geometry by OMS (Oscillation Monitoring System) and TRC (Track Recording Cars).
17. Patrolling of railway tracks to look out for weld/rail fractures.
18. The use of Thick Web Switches and Weldable CMS Crossing in turnout renewal works.

19. Inspections at regular intervals are carried out to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices.
20. Web based online monitoring system of track assets viz. Track database and decision support system has been adopted to decide rationalized maintenance requirement and optimize inputs.
21. Detailed instructions on issues related with safety of Track, e.g. integrated block, corridor block, worksite safety, monsoon precautions, etc. have been issued.
22. Preventive maintenance of railway assets (Coaches & Wagons) is undertaken to ensure safe train operations.
23. Replacement of conventional ICF design coaches with LHB design coaches is being done.
24. All unmanned level crossings (UMLCs) on Broad Gauge (BG) route have been eliminated by January 2019.
25. Safety of Railway Bridges is ensured through regular inspection of Bridges. The requirement of repair/rehabilitation of Bridges is taken up based upon the conditions assessed during these inspections.
26. Indian Railways has displayed Statutory “Fire Notices” for widespread passenger information in all coaches. Fire posters are provided in every coach so as to educate and alert passengers regarding various Do’s and Don’ts to prevent fire. These include messages regarding not carrying any inflammable material, explosives, prohibition of smoking inside the coaches, penalties etc.
27. Production Units are providing Fire detection and suppression system in newly manufactured Power Cars and Pantry Cars, Fire and Smoke detection system in newly manufactured coaches. Progressive fitment of the same in existing coaches is also underway by Zonal Railways in a phased manner.
28. Regular counselling and training of staff is undertaken.
29. Concept of Rolling Block introduced in Indian Railways (Open Lines) General Rules vide Gazette notification dated 30.11.2023, wherein work of integrated maintenance/ repair/replacement of assets is planned up to 52 weeks in advance on rolling basis and executed as per plan.

The details of the Safety related works related to better maintenance practices, Technological improvements, better infrastructure and rolling stock etc. undertaken by Railways are tabulated below:-

S.N.	Item	2004-05 to 2013-14	2014-15 to 2024-25	2014-25 Vs. 2004-14
	Technological improvements			
1.	Use of high-quality rails (60 Kg) (Km)	57,450 Km	1.43 Lakh Km	More than 2 times
2.	Longer Rail Panels (260m) (Km)	9,917 Km	77,522 Km	Nearly 8 times
3.	Electronic Interlocking (Stations)	837 Stations	3,691 Stations	More than 4 times
4.	Fog Pass Safety Devices (Nos.)	As on 31.03.14: 90 Nos.	As on 31.03.25: 25,939	288 times
5.	Thick Web Switches (Nos.)	Nil	28,301 Nos.	
	Better maintenance practices			
1.	Primary Rail Renewal (Track Km)	32,260 Km	49,941 Km	1.5 times
2.	USFD (Ultra Sonic Flaw detection) Testing of Welds (Nos.)	79.43 Lakh	2 Crore	More than 2 times
3.	Weld failures (Nos.)	In 2013-14: 3699 Nos.	In 2024-25: 370 Nos.	90 % reduction
4.	Rail fractures (Nos.)	In 2013-14: 2548 Nos.	In 2024-25: 289 Nos.	More than 88% reduction

	Better infrastructure and Rolling stock			
1.	New Track KM added (Track km)	14,985 Nos.	34,428 Km	More than 2 times
2.	Flyovers (RoBs)/ Underpasses (RUBs) (Nos.)	4,148 Nos.	13,808 Nos.	More than 3 times
3.	Unmanned Level crossings (nos.) on BG	As on 31.03.14: 8948	As on 31.03.24: Nil (All eliminated by 31.01.19)	Removed
4.	Manufacture of LHB Coaches (Nos.)	2,337 Nos.	42,677	More than 18 times

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