

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5108
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2019**

SAFETY OF RAILWAY TRACKS

**5108. SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
SHRI VINAYAK RAUT:
SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways are aware of the poor conditions of railway tracks, especially during the monsoon season and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether a number of accidents were caused due to breaking of rail tracks during the last three years and if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(c) whether any inquiry have been conducted by the Government in this regard and if so, the details thereof along with the outcome and corrective implementation thereof;

(d) whether the safety commissioner of Railways has warned about the traffic on Konkan Railway route and if so, the details of action taken by the Railways thereon; and

(e) the steps taken by the Railways for the safety of Railway tracks and passengers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5108 BY SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE, DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE, SHRI VINAYAK RAUT AND SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 24.07.2019 REGARDING SAFETY OF RAILWAY TRACKS

(a) Condition of tracks is being regularly monitored especially during monsoon through well laid down system of inspections. Action as warranted for maintenance/renewal of tracks is taken, to ensure that track is in safe condition at all times. Railways have issued instructions in regard to necessary precautions as prescribed as “Pre-monsoon Precautionary Measures” in Indian Railway Permanent Way Manual which, inter-alia, include patrolling of tracks, posting of stationary watchmen at vulnerable bridge locations, availability of reserve materials for restoration/relief girders and other necessary equipment alongwith inspection of Railway affecting works/weather warning with follow up action etc.

(b) Total 23 consequential train accidents had taken place on account of ‘rail fracture’ over Indian Railways during last three years. Year-wise break-up is as under:

Year	Number of consequential train accidents	Number of accidents on account of rail fracture
2016-17	104	14
2017-18	73	04
2018-19	59	05
2019-20 (up to 30.06.2019)	18	NIL

(c) Each and every consequential train accident on Indian Railway is inquired into either by Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation or by the Department Inquiry Committee of Railways to determine the reasons of train accidents. Various corrective and improvement measures are taken as per the findings/recommendations of the inquiry reports.

Corrective actions viz laying of modern track structure consisting of Prestressed Concrete (PSC) Sleepers, 60kg, 90 or higher Ultimate Tensile Strength (UTS) rails in form of long panels of 260 m length, Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) testing of rails/welds for timely removal of defects, electronic monitoring of track geometry with Track Recording Cars (TRC), execution of flash butt welds to reduce the number of Alumino-Thermit welds joints on track etc are carried out for ensuring safety of track.

(d) Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), Central Circle, Mumbai conducts Annual Inspection on entire Konkan Railway route every year before monsoon. CRS observations are being complied from time to time. CRS has not made any serious observations about the traffic on Konkan Railway route in the recent past.

(e) Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent accidents and to enhance safety. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training of officials and safety inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices.
