

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1631
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2003
SHORT TERM PLAN FOR POST-ACCIDENT RELIEF
PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

:

- (a) the deficiencies found in rushing aid and relief and also extraction of passengers from the compartments and under the compartments at accident sites;
- (b) whether minimum list of on-site equipment for eventual use has been enumerated;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any short-term plan been evolved for the railways dealing only with post-accident relief to ensure that every railway Station particularly Vijayawada and Rajahmundry Stations will have certain minimum equipments and personnel ready to rush to the spot within a short notice;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps proposed to change the present system of not having anything ready ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA)

(a) The Railways have an extensive rescue and relief system that has evolved over decades and is generally sufficient for meeting the requirements in case of train accidents. However, in every case an appraisal is made to uncover deficiencies and to learn lessons, if any.

(b) There is a prescribed list of equipment depending upon the type of Accident Relief Trains and Medical Vans.

(c) Accident Relief Medical Vans (ARMVs) There are 161 ARMVs on Broad Gauge and Meter Gauge network. These are loco hauled trains equipped with rescue and re-railing equipment, Operation Theatre (in Scale-I ARMVs) and surgical and medical supplies for trauma care.

Self-propelled ARMVs (13 on Broad Gauge only) These are two-coach self-propelled train-sets capable of running in either direction at speeds up to 95 kmph.

They are equipped with cold-cutting hydraulic rescue equipment and full medical facilities for trauma care, including an Operation Theatre.

Accident Relief Trains (ARTs) Conventional ARTs (175 both Broad Gauge and Meter Gauge)

These trains are equipped for major re-railing and restoration work. They are also provided with cranes in 'A' class ARTs.

Self-propelled ARTs (10 on Broad Gauge only) These are two-coach Accident Relief Trains equipped for re-railing and restoration work.

(d) & (e) As brought out above, Indian Railways have ARTs and ARMVs located all over the network to cater to any accidents that might happen.

Both Vijayawada and Rajahmundry have been provided such equipment. All stations are covered by ARTs/ARMVs spread over the rail network.

A plan to further upgrade and supplement these facilities has also been developed with well-defined time targets.

(f) As brought out above, Railways do have a system for relief and rescue in the event of train accidents, which has been tested and developed almost since the inception of Railway operations in India. It is also periodically reviewed and upgraded.