

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3344  
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2003  
RAIL TRACK  
PRABODH PANDA

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether railway safety is very poor in our country;
- (b) whether poor railway tracks are the cause of frequent train accidents;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3344 BY SHRI PRABODH PANDA, TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 13.03.2003 REGARDING RAIL TRACK.

(a). No, Sir.

(b). No, Sir.

(c). Does not arise.

(d). Repair and maintenance of Railway track is an on-going process. Maintenance works are carried out regularly depending upon the need. For ensuring safety of traffic, track is inspected regularly and corrective action taken promptly wherever required. Speed restrictions are also imposed for ensuring safety, if the situation so warrants. Track renewals are also under taken depending upon the need of renewal and availability of funds. The following steps have been taken, for improving safety on Indian Railways as far as track is concerned:

(i) Regular inspection of track at various levels is undertaken.

(ii) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of track, sophisticated track recording cars and oscillograph cars are being used.

(iii) Training to railway staff is provided immediately after their recruitment and thereafter their knowledge is refreshed periodically. Seminars/workshops/field demonstrations are also organised for Permanent way staff from time to time to enhance/update their knowledge.

(iv) Patrolling of railway track by gang men is carried out at vulnerable locations during monsoon, summer and winter.

(v) The specifications of rail steel have been upgraded and are in conformity with the International Union of Railways (UIC) specifications.

(vi) Ultrasonic Flaw Detectors are used to detect hidden flaws in the rail.

(vii) Mechanized maintenance of track is being introduced progressively, for better and improved maintenance.

(viii) The track structure is being upgraded on a planned basis.

(ix) To keep the track in good condition, track renewals are carried out whenever it becomes due for renewal subject to availability of funds.