

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4079  
ANSWERED ON:10.04.2003  
FIRE IN PATNA-PURI EXPRESS AT PATNA JUNCTION  
KAMAL NATH

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

- (a) whether Fire engulfed the Patna-Puri Express at Patna Junction as reported in `Statesman` dated February 19,2003;
- (b) if so, the details of losses to Railways due to fire in bogies; (
- (c) whether the Government have preliminary investigated the cause of the fire;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

**Answer**

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

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Total Rupees 10,80000/- has been assessed towards loss and damage to Railway property.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) As per the enquiry report, the coach caught fire due to cigarette, match stick or any inflammable material used by passengers.
- (e) Regular joint drives are being conducted by RPF and Commercial staff to prevent carriage of inflammable material in coaches.