

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:457  
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2003  
HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON RAIL ACCIDENTS  
AJAY CHAKRABORTY

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

- (a) whether a high level meeting in the wake of a series of railway accidents had convened recently;
- (b) if so, the details of the discussion took place and conclusion arrived at;
- (c) whether it was revealed in the course of discussion that there is a huge backlog of vacancies in the safety category; and
- (d) if so, the zone-wise details of such vacancies and steps being taken to fill up the same?

**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.457 ASKED BY SHRI AJ CHAKRABORTY TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 20.02.2003 REGARDING HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON ACCIDENTS.

(a) & (b). Yes Sir, a special meeting of General Managers of Zonal Railways on safety was held on 08.01.03. Detailed issues pertaining to safety were deliberated upon and the following major decisions were taken: -

- (i). Enhanced financial powers to the General Managers for faster implementation of safety works
- (ii). Intensive supervision and control by the General Managers and the Divisional Railway Managers.
- (iii). More effective and intensive inspections at all levels.
- (iv). Decision to make safety wing organisation broad as recommended by the Railway Safety Review Committee.
- (v). Empowering Safety Officers to recommend punishments on the lines of the Vigilance advice.
- (vi). Installation of Anti Collision Device (ACD) on successful completion of trials.

(c). No, Sir.

(d). The information regarding the number of vacancies as on 01.01.2003 in the safety categories is being collected and will be placed on the table of the Sabha. In order to ensure that vacancies do not remain unfilled especially in Safety categories, the extant procedure provides for laying down an annual calendar/schedule in advance for conducting selections/suitability/trade tests to fill up vacancies on a regular basis. The position is also required to be reviewed and monitored in various high level meetings periodically. However, since occurrence and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process a certain number of vacancies are bound to exist in this continuous process at any given point of time. Efforts are made to fill up the vacancies promptly