

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:403
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2003
DANGEROUS RAIL ZONES
SHRINWAS DADASAHEB PATIL

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railway Board has identified the Railway Zones and divisions with poor safety record;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have taken any action against those heading these zones and responsible for poor safety records;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the measures taken by the Government to improve the situation in these Zones and Divisions to combat accidents in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL)

(a) & (b): The safety performance of various Zonal Railways, Divisions and Sections etc. is monitored on a continuous basis at different levels. Appropriate corrective measures are also taken, wherever warranted. Such identified Sections, Divisions and Zonal Railways keep on changing based on periodic reviews.

(c) to (e): The direct responsibility for an accident is determined and punishment imposed on the basis of outcome of accident inquiry reports and gravity of the lapses committed by individuals. Zonal and Divisional heads are to be held responsible in case a continued neglect and grave, wide spread failure of safety system is detected.

(f): To prevent accidents on Indian Railways, appropriate measures are taken from time to time. They include induction of relevant modern technologies, upgradation of human resources and more effective and efficient supervision. Stringent punishments to the extent of `removal` and dismissal` are also imposed on officials held responsible for accidents. A Special Railway Safety Fund has become operational since October, 2001 to wipe out the arrears of replacement of overaged assets viz. track, bridges, rolling stock, signalling gears etc. within a period of six years. Also, a series of `Safety Samvads` have been organized since July 2003, to interact with the field staff and organized labour of the Railways to enhance the safety consciousness among the workforce.