

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:535
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2003
DUTY HOURS OF ENGINE DRIVERS
KAMBALAPADU E. KRISHNAMURTHY

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Rail Engine Drivers have requested the railways for reduction of their working hours from 8 hours to 6 hours in view of the frequent rail accidents and making them responsible for their duty lapses;
- (b) whether they have requested to include their services in the purview of emergency services; and
- (c) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, Sir. The engine drivers have requested that working hours be limited to six hours at a stretch.
- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Reclassification of engine drivers or change in their duty hours has been considered by various Committees/Tribunals, beginning with Adjudicator Justice Rajadhyaksha in 1946, followed by Justice Miabhoj in 1969, the Committee on Running Allowance in 1980 and the 4th Pay Commission. All of them have held that the existing classification of running staff as `Continuous` may continue.