

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1575
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2003
REPORT ON RAJDHANI EXPRESS ACCIDENT
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has received the report of the Railway Safety Commissioner on accident of Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express held in Bihar during September, 2002;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of any further action plan formulated on the basis of report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The Commissioner of Railway Safety/Eastern Circle in his final report concluded that the accident occurred due to opening of fish plate and elastic rail clips of the cess site single rail in Howrah end approach of Bridge No. 445 by miscreants. This accident was classified by the Commission under the category of "sabotage". In this unfortunate accident, 108 persons lost their lives, 59 sustained grievous injuries and 105 sustained simple injuries. Unidentified persons were held as primarily responsible.

(c): The Commission made 26 recommendations in its report. Majority of these have been accepted by the Railways for implementation. They relate to development of design of anti-sabotage fittings, security patrolling and reduction of speed of Mail/Express trains in sabotage prone areas, guarding of surplus and released track material, emergency exits in coaches, identification of doctors travelling on trains, strengthening of track structure on bridges and improvement in relief and rescue arrangements, etc.