

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2294
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2000
LEVEL CROSSINGS IN THE COUNTRY
MADHAVRAO SCINDIA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of manned and unmanned railway crossings in the country, separately, state-wise and zone-wise;
- (b) the number of railway accidents that have occurred during the last three years at such level crossings, State- wise;
- (c) whether many of these accidents have occurred due to the unmanned level crossings;
- (d) if so, the steps being taken to prevent the recurrence of such accidents and to convert unmanned level crossings to manned level crossings;
- (e) whether it is proposed to entrust the unmanned level crossings to private sector;
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with terms and reference thereof;
- (g) whether the Government propose to setup/ construct any more manned and unmanned railway crossings in the country; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof, location- wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) to (h) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2294 TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.03.2000 ASKED BY SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA, RAGHUNATH JHA, V. VETRISELVAN, SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM, RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY, RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA, VAIKO, RAMANAND SINGH, NARESH PUGLIABHARTI, SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN, SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE, MOINUL HASSAN & M. K. SUBBA : REGARDING LEVEL CROSSINGS IN THE COUNTRY

(a) At present, there are 16280 manned and 24049 are unmanned level crossings in the country. Statistics of level crossings state-wise and Railway zone-wise are given below :-

STATE-WISE DETAILS

STATES	MANNED	UNMANNED	STATES	MANNED	UNMANNED
ASSAM	431	908	MIZORAM	-	1
ANDHRA PRADESH	1209	1537	ORISSA	283	1179
BIHAR	1365	1898	PUNJAB	766	1092
DELHI	55	2	RAJASTHAN	1416	2223
GUJARAT	1469	2927	TAMILNADU	1256	1565
HARYANA	517	523	TRIPURA	-	22
HIMACHAL PRADESH	38	304	UTTAR PRADESH	2820	3736
JAMMU & KASHMIR	17	33	WEST BENGAL	1083	1625
KARNATAKA	657	1044	CHANDIGARH	6	1
KERALA	413	219	PONDICHERY	9	9
MADHYA PRADESH	1316	1693	GOA	14	2
MAHARASHTRA	1138	1504	NAGALAND	1	1

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ZONE-WISE DETAILS

RAILWAY	MANNED	UNMANNED	RAILWAY	MANNED	UNMANNED
CENTRAL	1831	1610	SOUTHERN	2189	2544
EASTERN	1285	1041	SOUTH CENTRAL	1501	1956
NORTHERN	3224	4407	SOUTH EASTERN	1115	3624
NORTH EASTERN	1471	3205	WESTERN	2970	4128
NORTHEAST FRONTIER	694	1534			

(c) Accidents at unmanned level crossings mainly occurred due to negligence of the road users who failed to observe the road sign available at these gates and also the stipulations contained in the Motor Vehicle Act 1988.

(d) The following steps have been taken by the Ministry to prevent accidents at unmanned level crossings.

1. Proper road signs have been provided on approaches to level crossings so that road vehicle drivers become aware of the existence of a level crossing gate.

2. Speed breakers/ rumble strips have been provided on approaches to level crossing gates so that road vehicle drivers are reminded to reduce their speed.

3. Whistle boards are also provided alongside the rail track on approach to level crossings. Train drivers are required to whistle from the whistle board till such time as the train passes the level crossing gate in order to warn road users about the approaching train. Periodic drives are launched for checking whether drivers are actually whistling from such whistle boards.

4. Road users have still not got used to the faster speeds of Mail/ Express trains. A train traveling at 90 KMPH covers 25m/sec. Thus, although to the road user the train appears to be 150 meter away, in terms of time it is only 6 seconds away. This message is being conveyed to them progressively by various publicity measures.

5. To educate road drivers about safety at unmanned level crossings, publicity campaigns are periodically launched through various media like quickies on TV, cinema slides, posters, talks on radio, newspaper advertisements and street plays.

6. Since accidents at unmanned level crossings take place due to negligence of road users, the State Governments can also help by exercising strict checks while issuing driving licenses, specially to drivers of trucks, buses and other heavy vehicles. All Chief Secretaries have been requested to co-operate in educating road users.

7. Joint Ambush Checks with civil authorities are conducted to nab errant road vehicle drivers under the provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act 1988 and the Railways Act 1989.

8. Involvement of village Panchayats in the railways public awareness programmes is also being done.

9. Permission has been received from some of the State Governments for putting up level crossing safety posters at Village Panchayat offices. These posters are presently under printing and this work will be started in the near future.

10. Permission has also been received from IOC/HPC/BPC for putting up Level Crossing Safety Posters at retail petrol pumps. These posters are presently under printing and this work will also be started in the near future.

11. An intensive campaign through public address system has been launched to sensitize the public about the dangers from explosives and need to maintain extreme vigilance regarding unclaimed/ unattended objects.

12. Intensive publicity is carried out through televisions quickies, advertisements in the National and local press to educate the public against the hazards of carrying inflammable material in their luggage.

686 level crossings have been sanctioned for manning during the Budget in 1999-2000 and 602 level crossings have been included in Railway budget 2000-2001.

(e) & (f) No, Sir. However, a task force set-up by the Ministry of Railways has recommended participation of private sector for manning of the unmanned level crossing by giving them advertisement rights. Under this scheme, the capital cost varying from Rs. 8-10 lakhs of providing initial infrastructure like staff quarters, duty hut, road service, telephone etc. will be borne by the private sector and recurring maintenance and operational cost varying from Rs. 2-2.5 lakhs will be borne by the Railways. Maintenance and operation will continue with the Railways.

(g) & (h) No new unmanned level crossing is being set-up. As regards provision of new manned level crossings, railways provide the

same as per the requirement on deposit terms for which proposals are sponsored by the State Govt./ Local authorities. Also Railways provide level crossings at their own cost while laying new Railway lines and up to 10 years after opening of Railway lines, if need arises.