

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2332
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2000
RAIL-VAN ACCIDENT AT LEVEL CROSSING
MADHAVRAO SCINDIA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an accident of a school van and Bhatinda-Sriganganagar passenger train was occurred at a level crossing on January 28, 2000;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefore; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to avoid such type of incidents in future?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. This accident at an unmanned level crossing occurred due to failure on the part of driver of school van to take precaution as laid down under section 131 of the Motor Vehicle Act before negotiating the level crossing.

(c) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2332 BY SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 09.03.2000 REGARDING RAIL-VAN ACCIDENT AT LEVEL CROSSING

(c) Measures for reducing Unmanned Level Crossing accidents

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 25 m/sec. Thus, although to the road user the train appears to be 150 meters 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 licences, 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 Vehicles Act, 1988 and the Railways Act, 1989.
8. Involvement of village Panchayats in the railways public awareness programs is also being done.
9. Permission has been received from some of the State Governments for putting up L-Xing 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 L-Xing 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.