

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:507
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2002
DIVERSION OF MONEY FROM RAILWAY SAFETY FUND
RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the railway has diverted some money from Special Railway Safety Fund for other purposes, including development of newly created railway zones;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the total amount collected by the Railways through safety surcharge during the last three years;
- (d) the amount of money utilised for passenger safety so far out of the Special Railway Safety Fund;
- (e) the names of the rail routes and bridges renewed after the creation of Special Railway Safety Fund, zone-wise and State-wise; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the proper utilisation of Special Railway Safety Fund?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA)

(a) to (f): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.507 BY SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR, SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK, SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL, SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY, SHRI MOINUL HASSAN ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 21.11.2002 REGARDING DIVERSION OF MONEY FROM RAILWAY SAFETY FUND.

(a) & (b): No, sir. The works to be undertaken from the Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) have been identified by a Select Committee set up by the Railway Ministry. There are explicit instructions to the Railways to spend the money available under SRSF on the identified works of safety only and no diversion/reappropriation is permissible from the works charged to SRSF, not even for creation of new zones.

(c): The `Safety Surcharge` on passenger has been levied with effect from 1 October, 2001. The `Safety Surcharge` collected during the year 2001-2002 (1-10-2001 to 31-03-2002) was Rs. 304.86 crore and in the year 2002-2003 (1-04-2002 to August, 2002) Rs. 249.96 crore have been collected.

(d): The Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) was set up and operated with effect from 1 October, 2001. The actual expenditure (net) out of SRSF, during the year 2001-2002 was Rs.1434.28 crore against an allocation of Rs.1400 crore in the revised estimate for that year. In the year 2002-2003 (Budget Estimate) a net amount of Rs.2210 crore has been provided under SRSF. The total money available under SRSF will be spent on the identified works only to ensure safety of train operations, which will be in the interest of both passengers and freight.

(e): The works under Track Renewal, Signalling, Bridge Works, Machinery & Plant Rolling Stock as well as other safety enhancement works identified by the Select Committee for funding through SRSF, which are still in progress, have been listed in the Budget document titled Works, Machinery & Rolling Stock Programme for 2002-2003, Part-III or the `Green Book`. Since the Railway Budget is prepared Railway zone-wise and not state-wise, these lists are available Railway zone-wise.

(f): To ensure proper utilisation of the Fund, an extensive mechanism for monitoring progress of the works under SRSF has been put in place. The works to be funded through the SRSF have been listed in the `Green Book`. The monitoring scheme as approved by the Government envisages periodic monitoring at different levels, viz.,

- (i) At divisional level - monthly
- (ii) By General Managers of Zonal Railways - every two months
- (iii) By the Railway Board - every six months
- (iv) At the inter-ministerial level - once a year.

