/font>

Title: Need to take adequate security measures to check frequent train accidents- Laid.

DR. JAGANNATH MANDA (NAGAR KURNOOL) : A major railway accident almost in every 45 days seems to have become the norm in Indian Railways. The major accident this year that occurred on 2nd July morning near Warangal station claimed 18 lives and another in four days in Chittoor district injured 22 passengers in Andhra Pradesh. Every time the accident is blamed on sabotage. The derailment of Shramjivi Express in May, 2002, the prestigious Howrah Delhi Rajdhani Express fell into a river near Rafiganj on September 9, the Secundrabad-Manmad Express accident on January 3 and the fire in the Frontier Mail on May 15 this year were again blamed on sabotage that too before the final reports on accidents were presented. The Railway Minister's White Paper on Railway Safety, laid in Parliament in April, admitted that two-thirds of the accidents were caused by human error. In 2001-2002, only 557 people faced action (including 34 dismissal) just 1.34 per cent. I am sorry to add that only junior staff are touched, the senior ones get away as the emphasis on substantive responsibility, not moral. Accidents probes focus on the filed staff's negligence, not on the systemic failures that are often the cause. The need is to improve accountability of staff. The work culture is not tuned to safety, there is almost no vigilance, training sessions, and if held at all are not attended by the key staff.

I would request the Union Government to make serious efforts to control the accidents.