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Title: The Minister of Railways laid a statement regarding incident occurred at Dhamara Ghat railway station in East Central Railway resulting in loss of human lives and injuries.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): Madam, I beg to lay the Statement on the Table of the House.

Speaker Madam, with profound grief, I am pained to apprise the House regarding an unfortunate incident that occurred yesterday at Dhamara Ghat Railway Station between Saharsa and Khagaria in Samastipur Division over East Central Railway in the state of Bihar wherein some persons died and others sustained injuries due to run over by the train.

It is informed that yesterday at about 08:33 hrs., Train No: 55533 Up Madhepura-Samastipur Passenger and at 08:48 hrs., Train No: 55566 Dn Samastipur-Madhepura Passenger reached Dhamara Ghat Railway station. Both these trains were stopped to give precedence to Train No: 12567 Rajyarani Express. Some passengers got down from the above trains, on non-platform side. In the meantime at about 08.50 hrs, Train No: 12567 Rajyarani Express was passing through Dhamara Ghat Railway Station. The Loco Pilot after passing Home signal, which was on a curvature, saw some persons standing on the track and applied emergency brakes. However, by the time train stopped, some persons got run over. As per the last information, 28 persons got run over and lost their lives and 8 were injured.

After the incident, the mob at Dhamara Ghat got agitated. They burnt few coaches of Rajyarani express. Medical Relief train left from Barauni at 09.55 hrs for the site. DRM/Samastipur along with his team of doctors and officers started from Samastipur at 10.50 hrs and have reached the site. General Manager / E.C. Railway with officers has also left from Patna for the site. I have spoken to the Minister of Civil Aviation to issue directions to Commissioner of Railway Safety to enquire into the matter. I have also requested the Chief Minister of Bihar to maintain law and order and take necessary steps for facilitating normal train operations.

On humanitarian grounds an *ex-gratia* amount of Rs. 5 lakhs for those who lost their lives and Rs. 1 lakh for those grievously injured has been announced.

On behalf of the Railways and myself, I express deep condolence to the bereaved families and also express sincere sympathy to the injured. I trust the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolence to the bereaved families.

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