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Title: The Minister of Railways made a statement regarding derailment of Kamayani Express and Janata Express between Khirkiya and Bhirangi stations of West Central Railway on 04.08.2015.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up item No. 15A – Railway Minister.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): Madam, an unfortunate incident of derailment of Kamayani Express and Janta Express between Khirkiya and Bhirangi stations on Khandwa-Itarsi section of West Central Railway took place at about 2330 hours on 04.08.2015. According to the information available with me at this moment, bodies of 11 passengers of Janta Express and one passenger of Kamayani Express were recovered from the coaches and 25 passengers sustained minor injuries in this unfortunate incident, who were given immediate medical treatment. The exact number of casualties is being ascertained by the Railway Officers at the accident site.

I personally monitored the situation throughout the night and co-ordinated relief and rescue efforts with the hon. Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh. Accident Relief Trains and Accident Relief Medical Vans were immediately dispatched to the site. The Divisional Railway Manager, Bhopal and the General Manager, West Central Railway were directed to reach the accident site. The State Government and the Railways are jointly involved in the relief and rescue operations.

On humanitarian grounds, an enhanced ex-gratia of Rs. 2 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased, Rs. 50,000 to the grievously injured and Rs. 25,000 to persons who sustained simple injuries have been announced.

The *prima facie* cause of the incident is stated to be 'flash flood due to heavy rains'. A statutory inquiry into this incident has been ordered to be conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety. Helpline numbers have been set up at all important locations and the Railways have been instructed to take all precautions in flood affected areas.

On behalf of the Railways and myself, I express deep condolences to the bereaved families and also express sincere sympathies to the injured. I trust the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. My colleague Shri Manoj Sinha and I are now rushing to Madhya Pradesh.

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