

CHAPTER III

ACCIDENTS INQUIRED INTO

BY THE COMMISSION OF RAILWAY SAFETY

- 3.1** The Commission of Railway Safety functions independent of the Ministry of Railways under the administrative control of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and deals with matters pertaining to Safety of rail travel and train operation and is charged with certain, inspectorial, investigatory and advisory functions as laid down in the Railways Act, 1989. The Commission is headed by the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety at Lucknow. Working under the administrative control of the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety, are 9 Commissioners of Railway Safety, each one exercising jurisdiction over one or more than one Zonal Railways and the Metro Railway, Kolkata and Konkan Railway Corporation Limited.
- 3.2** The principal functions of the Commission of Railway Safety are:
- (i) Inspection of new Railway lines prior to authorisation for passenger traffic.
 - (ii) Periodical inspection of open lines;
 - (iii) Approval of new works and renewals affecting passenger carrying trains;
 - (iv) Investigations into accidents, including enquiries into such accidents to passenger carrying trains as are considered to be of a serious nature; and
 - (v) General advice on matters concerning safety in train operations.
- 3.3** Section 113 of Railways Act, 1989 requires intimation of serious accidents to be sent to the Commissioner of Railway Safety. Under the 'Statutory Investigation into Railway Accidents Rules, 1998' issued by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, a statutory enquiry by the Commissioner of Railway Safety is obligatory in every serious accident to a train carrying passengers which is attended with loss of human life, or with grievous hurt, as defined in the Indian Penal Code, to a passenger or passengers in the train or with serious damage to railway property of the value exceeding Rs.25 lakhs. While holding statutory enquiry, the Commission not only examines affected passengers but also invites

members of the public to give evidence in person during the enquiry or to write to the Commission. Some of the serious accidents at manned or unmanned level crossings attended with loss of life or with grievous injury to persons travelling in road vehicles are also inquired into by the Commission of Railway Safety.

- 3.4** The Commission, in its discretion, may hold enquiry into any other accident.
- 3.5** During 2005-2006, the Commission of Railway Safety enquired into 23 consequential train accidents/incidents. During the year, Commission of Railway Safety inquired into 4 Collisions, 6 Derailments, 2 accidents at Manned level crossings, 2 at Unmanned level crossings, 5 Fire / Bomb blast incidence and 4 Unusual occurrences/miscellaneous accidents. Brief particulars of these accidents are indicated in Appendix IV.
- 3.6** The Commissioner of Railway Safety stops or discontinues his inquiry when ever a Commissions of Inquiry under the Commission of Inquiries Act, 1952 is appointed.
- 3.7** Justice Sagir Ahmed Commission was set up on 13.02.2001 to enquire into the train accident between 3005 UP, Howrah-Amritsar Mail and derailed wagons of DN Ajitwal – New Bongaigaon goods train on 02.12.2000 in Ambala-Ludhiana Section of Northern Railway. The report of the Commission is awaited.
