

CHAPTER I

SAFETY RECORD OF INDIAN RAILWAYS

- 1.1 Indian Railways is the largest railway network under a single management in the world. It has a route kilometrage of nearly 63,465 kms, an operating fleet of 497,831 wagons (in terms of 4-wheelers), 48,263 coaching vehicles and 7,910 locomotives.
- 1.2 During 2004-2005, on an average, 16,021 trains, including 9,556 passenger carrying trains, were run daily. Nearly 15 million passengers were booked daily and 626.18 million tonnes of freight traffic was loaded during the year. With such a massive utilisation of assets, safety is of paramount importance for operational efficiency. A very high priority is accorded to safety to enable Railways to achieve still greater heights of performance.

Consequential Train Accidents:

- 1.3 The term 'accident' envelopes a wide spectrum of occurrences with or without significant impact on the system. Consequential train accidents include mishaps with serious repercussion in terms of loss of human life or injury, damage to railway property or interruption to rail traffic of laid down threshold levels and values. These consequential train accidents include collisions, derailments, fire or explosion in trains, road vehicles colliding with trains at level crossings, and certain specified types of 'miscellaneous' train mishaps.

Incidence of Train Accidents

- 1.4 The number of consequential train accidents decreased from 325 (including 5 train accidents on Konkan Railway) during 2003-2004 to 234 (including 2 train accidents on Konkan Railway) during 2004-2005. The incidence of train accidents per million train kilometres, which is the universally accepted safety index, dropped from 5.5 in 1960-61 to 0.29 in 2004-2005. The continuous reduction in the number of train accidents as also the incidence of train accidents per million train kilometres is indicative of sustained improvement in safety performance. A table showing the trend of train accidents on Indian Railways since 1960-61 is attached as Appendix I.

- 1.5 Out of 234 (including 2 train accident on Konkan Railway) train accidents that took place during 2004-2005, 196 took place on the broad gauge, 28 on the metre gauge and 10 on the narrow gauge. Freight trains were involved in 80 accidents and passenger trains in 154 accidents.

Damage to Railway Property

- 1.6 The cost of damage to railway track and rolling stock and interruption to through communication on account of train accidents during the last 5 years have been as under:-

Year	Cost of damages (Rs. In Lakhs)		Interruption to through Communication (in hrs.)
	Rolling Stock	Permanent Way	
2000-2001	3692.9	1831.0	4,045
2001-2002	3234.6	1646.5	3,224
2002-2003	3158.4	617.3	2,388
2003-2004	4348.6	826.0	2,806
2004-2005	2225	497.1	1,692

Casualties

- 1.7 The number of casualties in train accidents is essentially fortuitous and not strictly susceptible to comparison. The list of the major accidents which were attended with death of 10 or more persons is attached as Appendix II. The position of casualties in train accidents during the last 5 years has been as under:-

Year	Passengers	Killed			Injured			
		Rly. Staff	Others	Total	Passengers	Rly. Staff	Others	Total
2000-2001	55	8	153	216	286	27	175	488
2001-2002	144	14	168	326	595	38	175	808
2002-2003	157	29	232	418	658	41	283	982
2003-2004	135	4	155	294	302	31	159	492
2004-2005	50	5	181	236	191	12	209	412

Causes of Consequential Train Accidents

1.8 Broad causes of consequential train accidents which occurred on Indian Railways during the last 5 years, i.e., 2000-2001 to 2004-2005 are as under:-

S.No	Broad Causes	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Failure of Railway Staff	293	248	186	161	119
2.	Failure of Persons other than Railway Staff	109	103	118	107	78
3.	Failure of Equipment					
	(a) Rolling Stock	16	11	6	6	5
	(b) Track	17	13	11	9	7
	(c) Electrical	--	--	1	1	2
	(d) S&T	--	--	--	2	--
4.	Sabotage	19	14	10	18	4
5.	Combination of factors	4	--	2	2	1
6.	Incidental	11	20	15	17	16
7.	Could not be established	4	5	2	2	2
8.	Under Investigation		1			
	Total	473	415	351	325	234

Note: 'Incidental' causes include acts of nature like falling of boulders, sinkage of track due to heavy rain and cattle getting run over, etc.
