

922 Remarks and Reasons for Findings: This should include the following three items in three separate paragraphs:

- a) Discussion of all conflicting evidences and the Committee's deductions from there;
- b) The contributory factors, if any, and
- c) The extenuating circumstances, if any;

In the absence of conflicting evidence, contributory factors or extenuating circumstances in a particular accident shall be specifically mentioned. The Committee shall state the reasons fully which have led them to arrive at their findings bearing in mind that the proceedings have to be considered by those who have not had the advantage of hearing the evidence and reviewing the circumstances on the spot. The description of the accident and the remarks should, therefore, be comprehensive and self explanatory. The value of evidence of each witness should be noted upon and it shall be stated in case of doubtful witnesses, whether the witness is impartial or not.

923 Suggestions: The Committee may suggest any improvements in the rules or practices of working, which in their opinion, would prevent similar accidents in future or improve the working in any way, based not only on the cause or causes of the accident, but also the contributory factors, if any, and the extenuating circumstances, if any. If there are no suggestions to be made, a 'nil' entry should be made in Form Acc. 9.(I).

924 Matters Brought to Light during the Inquiry: In the matters brought to light during the inquiry, the irregularities in working, which might lead to any accident, although not having a direct bearing on the present accident, should be indicated. In the absence of any such matter, a 'nil' entry should be made in Form Acc. 9 (H).

925 Signing of Joint or Inter-Departmental Inquiry Proceedings: The proceedings shall be drawn up and signed before the Committee disperses. If the members of the Committee are not unanimous regarding the findings or remarks and reasons for findings or suggestions, a note of dissent shall be drawn separately and signed. If a member is unable to agree with the findings wholly or any part, he shall record his note of dissent and reasons thereof. The note of dissent shall be drawn up on the spot and signed. This document shall accompany the proceedings together with the remarks of the President of the Inquiry Committee.

926 Inquiries into Accidents at Joint stations:

- a) Accidents occurring at Joint stations should be treated as accidents of the working railway and the responsibility for initiating, conducting and finalizing the inquiry proceedings should devolve on the railway working the joint stations. In case the train of the using railway is involved in an accident, the railway, working the junction shall inform the railway concerned and the Officer of the appropriate level of that railway should be appointed as a member of the Inquiry Committee. This would be desirable as the staff working the particular train would have to be examined by the inquiry Committee and the presence of an Officer of that railway to which the staff belong would facilitate the smooth conduct of the Inquiry.
- b) As a normal procedure whenever an Officer of another railway is appointed as a member of the Inquiry Committee constituted by another Railway, that Officer should be given two copies of the complete inquiry proceedings, one for his divisional office and other for his headquarters office.
- c) If, in such cases, the Inquiry Committee hold the staff of the other railway responsible for the accident, the punishment awarded to the staff shall be finally accepted and communicated by the headquarters of the railway under which the staff work, to the headquarters of the other railway, who in turn will advise the same, to their own divisional officers, so that their records would be completed.