

903. Object of Accident Inquiry:

- a) To ascertain the correct cause of accident.
- b) To fix responsibility for the accident. (The responsibility shall be fixed at appropriate level and should be specific i.e., primary, secondary and blameworthy. While fixing individual responsibility, extenuating circumstances, if any shall be mentioned).
- c) To formulate proposals for preventing recurrence of similar accidents.
- d) To determine whether there was any laxity in working to which the accident could be attributed.
- e) To examine whether there has been any laxity / delay in rendering rescue, relief and restoring through lines of communication.
- f) To suggest improvement in system, practices and procedures.

904 Classification of Accident Inquiries: The Accident inquiries are classified into two types. They are

a) Non-Railway Enquiries:

- i. Judicial Commission or Commission of Inquiry as per Enquiries Act of 1952.
- ii. Commissioner of Railway Safety Enquiry
- iii. Magisterial Enquiry
- iv. Police Enquiry

b) Railway Enquiries:

- i. Joint Inquiry
- ii. Inter-departmental Inquiry
- iii. Departmental Inquiry

904.1 The Judicial Commission or Commission of Inquiry: The Central Government may appoint a Commission of Inquiry under the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952 (LX of 1952) in a very serious accident. In such an event any other enquiry / investigation or other proceedings in relation to that accident shall be stopped and all records or other documents relating to such enquiry shall be forwarded to such authority as may be specified by the Central Government in this behalf.

904.2 Commissioner of Railway Safety Inquiry: CRS shall hold statutory enquiry into the accidents falling under Section 113 of Railways Act 1989. The CRS may order and personally conduct an inquiry into an accident other than those falling under section 113 of Rly. Act, which he considers to be of sufficiently serious nature to justify such a course being adopted. The CRS shall inform the GM / CSO of his intention to hold an inquiry and shall at the same time, fix and communicate the date, time and place of the inquiry.

904.3 Magisterial Inquiry: It may be judicial or non-judicial and is appointed by the State Government. In case of reportable train accident, the District Magistrate or any other Magistrate may himself make an inquiry or depute a Subordinate Magistrate or direct the Police for investigation.