

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

---

DIVING OPERATIONS TO EXTRICATE DEAD BODIES COMPLETED

SAMASTIPUR RAIL DISASTER

New Delhi, Jyaistha 22, 1903  
June 12, 1981

The massive operation of extricating dead bodies by divers of the Indian Navy, from the Samastipur - Bonmakhi train which fell into the Bhagmati river last Saturday was completed this afternoon.

By yesterday evening, the naval divers had been able to gain access to all the submerged coaches by cutting open roofs and doors. The total number of bodies recovered till this morning was 232. Efforts are being made to recover three more bodies which are tangled in the wreckage.

Reports appearing in some sections of the press today quoted Admiral R.L. Pereira, Chief of the Naval Staff, to say that about 500 bodies were still trapped in the wreckage of the train. What he had said was that the total number of those who had fallen into the river would be around 500 as a maximum estimate. Having now removed all the dead bodies, it is evident that the number was approximately around 320 of whom 88 were rescued alive.

SND/GSS/DSB/ADM