

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 725
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2024**

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN BY RPF TO PREVENT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

†725. SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railway Protection Force (RPF) has started a National campaign to prevent human trafficking, if so, the details thereof ;**
- (b) whether the RPF proposes to deploy a special team on the every long distance Railway route ;**
- (c) whether the RPF proposes to work as a link in all states to assist local police in the mission to prevent human trafficking;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof;**
- (e) whether the RPF is planning to launch Cyber Cell to patrol web/social Media to check digital footprint of human trafficking;**
- (f) whether the Government proposes to focus on the trains running from the border districts of the country; and**
- (g) if so, the action plan prepared in this regard?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

(a) to (g): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 725 BY SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 07.02.2024 REGARDING NATIONAL CAMPAIGN BY RPF TO PREVENT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

(a) to (g): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and, therefore, State Governments are responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and maintenance of law and order on Railways through their law enforcement agencies viz. Government Railway Police (GRP)/District Police. Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP/District Police to provide better protection and security to railway property, passenger area and passengers and for matters connected therewith. RPF is not empowered to investigate cases of Human Trafficking and whenever any case of suspected human trafficking is detected by RPF, the same is reported to GRP/District Police. The persons rescued and apprehended are handed over to concerned Police for further necessary action as per law.

A pan India drive 'Operation AAHT' is undertaken by RPF, focused to take effective action in cases of Human Trafficking through railways.

In order to strengthen action against Human Trafficking, more than 750 Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) at post level have been setup by RPF over the Indian Railways. These AHTUs coordinate with AHTUs of Police & CAPFs (Central Armed Police Forces) i.e. BSF & SSB functioning at district level/state levels/International Borders and with Intelligence Units, NGOs working in this field, other stakeholders and take effective action on traffickers as per law.

Also, field formations of RPF have been sensitized to act proactively involving all the stakeholders to prevent any type of Human Trafficking through railways particularly from the vulnerable districts of the country bordering Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

RPF has established 16 Zonal Cyber Cells across all railways since 2018 which also addresses crimes across the Indian Railways focusing on Human Trafficking cases as well. A TOPARC Unit (TECH OPERATIONS FOR POTENT ACTION AGAINST RAILWAY CRIME) at Railway Board has also been established in the year 2022. The specialized unit is dedicated to monitor, supervise and support field units on actionable inputs needs to be culled out from various digital data base. Additionally access to NDHT (National Database of Human Traffickers) of NCRB (National Crime Records Bureau) through ICJS (Inter-operable Criminal Justice System) has been provided to RPF for collecting intelligence relating to suspicious activities of Human Traffickers.

Further, the following steps are being taken by the Railways in coordination with GRP/District Police to prevent Human Trafficking over Indian Railways :-

- 1. An Exhaustive Security circular No.03/2022 dated 02.02.2022, detailing action plan to be taken by RPF against Human Trafficking have been issued.**
- 2. Train escorting parties and staff deployed in mass contact areas have been sensitized and trained to identify the potential victims of trafficking and to take immediate action to rescue them.**
- 3. To supplement the efforts of State Police, Cyber cells of RPF have been instructed for cyber patrolling of the web/social media to look for digital footprints/ traces of human trafficking in the internet and to cull**

out the clues helpful in taking action against Human Trafficking through railways.

- 4. The subject of "Human Trafficking" has been included in all training courses conducted in RPF Training Centres. Also, time to time special seminars are organised to sensitize RPF personnel and train them in identification of victims and traffickers.**
- 5. Periodic review meetings are held with Nodal Officers of Anti Human Trafficking Units and other concerned agencies from time to time to review the efforts undertaken to combat human trafficking.**
- 6. Surveillance is kept through CCTV cameras in coaches and Railway Stations.**
- 7. Regular coordination meetings are conducted with AHTUs of GRP/ District Police to prevent Human trafficking.**
