

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1557
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2003
POWER FOR RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE
RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that the number of train accidents have increased in current years due to criminal activities and sabotage;
- (b) if so, the action taken by the Government to confer more powers on the Railways Protection Force;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to impart training in IPC and CRPC to RPF personnel to check Railway accidents and crimes in trains and railway premises; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA)

(a) to (d): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1557 BY SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 31.07.2003 REGARDING POWER FOR RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE

(a): Railway accidents are caused by a variety of factors, including sabotage. The broad cause-wise break-up of the consequential train accidents in the last three years is as under :-

CAUSES	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003+
Failure of Railway Staff	293	248	198
Failure of Persons other than Railway Staff	109	103	104
Failure of Equipment	33	24	12
Sabotage	19	14	18
Combination of Factors	04		
Incidental	11	20	17
Could not be established conclusively	04	05	02
Under Investigation			
Grand Total	473	414	351

+ Figures are provisional.

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

(b): Government Railway Police is the statutory agency to deal with crime on Railways and is discharging its functions. RPF is, however, deployed to augment GRP whenever there is a spate of crimes or the situation so warrants. As per the recommendations of the High Level Committee on Security of Railways, the proposal to empower the Railway Protection Force for providing better security to passengers, the passengers area, in addition to Railway property, is under examination. For this purpose amendments to RPF Act, 1957 and Railways Act, 1989 are under consideration.

(c) & (d): There is no such proposal to give powers under Indian Penal Code (IPC) or Training for dealing with crimes under the IPC to RPF with a view to check Railway accident and crime in train and Railway premises. However, proposal to give some powers under the Railways Act, 1989 is under consideration. These powers deal with minor offences, so that GRP (State Police) can concentrate on serious crimes on Railways. For enquiries into these offences under the Railway Act, RPF will be guided by the Criminal Procedure

Code (CrPC) for which the RPF is already trained. More refresher type training programmes to handle the additional proposed responsibilities are being formulated.