

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:414
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2003
INCIDENTS OF LOOTING, ROBBERY AND MURDERS IN TRAINS
AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have taken note of the incident of violence reported in Jamalpur railway station;
- (b) if so, the details of incidents and loss of lives & property in the incidents;
- (c) the incidents of looting, robbery and murders that took place in various trains during 2003, till date, train-wise;
- (d) the number of arrest made in each case;
- (e) the compensation paid to the persons injured/looted and families of deceased, if any; and
- (f) the stringent steps taken/to be taken to beef up more security in trains/stations to curb such incidents in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL)

(a) & (b) On 12.11.2003 at about 09.33 hrs. in protest of preventing Bihari candidates at Guwahati during examination for Group 'D' posts, about 300 local people and students (three hundred, later swelled up to 3000) assembled at Jamalpur and Ratanpur Railway Stations and targeted the North East bound trains as well as trains coming from North East direction like 4084 (Mahananda Express), 4055/4056 (Brahmaputra Mail) and 5647/5648 (Dadar-Guwahati Express). When these trains arrived at Jamalpur and Ratanpur Railway Stations, the agitators threw stones on the travelling Passengers, beat the passengers of North East origin and looted the personal belongings. They also harassed the lady passengers by molesting and vandalized the coaches. As many as 52 passengers and one Railway Protection Force officer were injured in these incidents. In this connection, Government Railway Police Station / Jamalpur registered four cases under relevant sections of Indian Penal Code and Railways Act 1989. 26 persons have been arrested so far. No loss of life has been reported so far. The extent of damage and loss of railway property is yet to be ascertained.

The primary responsibility for maintaining law & order and crime on Railways rests with the State Governments. "Policing" being a State subject, prevention and detection of crime on railways including in running trains is the Constitutional responsibility of the Government Railway Police.

However, in view of the gravity of the incidents of attack on passengers of North East Region and the possibility of serious repercussions in other States, the Minister for Railways had taken up the issue with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the State Government of Bihar so that the situation could be quickly brought under control. Steps have been taken to enhance security in trains moving through Bihar, especially between Malda and Kiul, in an attempt to prevent any incidents in the trains and to instill a sense of security amongst the passengers. All North East bound trains and those coming from North East were escorted by GRP and RPF headed by an Inspector between Malda and Kiul. The escorting arrangement still continues.

(c) to (e) "Policing" being a State subject, prevention and detection of crime on Railways, including in running trains is the constitutional responsibility of the State Governments. The cases of crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police (GRP). Therefore, information asked for in the question is not available with the Ministry of Railways.

(f) The Railway Administration has taken the following steps to supplement the efforts of the State Governments:-

1. Anti-social elements are removed from Railway premises and trains by the RPF regularly.
2. Announcements through Public Address system and Close Circuit Television at important Railway Stations to alert the travelling passengers against unidentified objects and suspicious objects and suspicious characters such as those administering drug/poison laced food stuffs to unsuspecting passengers.
3. Sharing of Special Intelligence and Crime Intelligence between RPF and GRP is being done at all levels.
4. Joint Strategies for dealing with anti-social elements operating on Railways have been chalked out by the GRP and RPF.
5. RPF sniffer dogs, wherever available, are being deployed at Railway platforms, yards etc. to sniff out explosive substances.

6. RPF staff, when required are deployed to supplement GRP, in co-ordination with GRP, to control heinous crimes on trains.