

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3304

ANSWERED ON:19.08.2004

ILLEGAL CONSIGNMENT

Mishra Dr. Rajesh Kumar;Thummar Shri Virjibhai

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)whether the Government is aware that recently in March 2004, during search of lease parcel van of 1916 Ashram Express by an Army Intelligence Unit, packets containing gold, silver, gems and lacs of Rupees in cash were recovered regarding which no information was given to the railways in the declaration form by the leaseholder;

(b)if so, the details thereof; and

(c)the details of the measures being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to stop illegal consignment of goods through lease parcel vans and to make this facility fool proof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRIR. VELU)

(a)&(b) : Yes, Sir. On the information received from Army Intelligence, Delhi Police Special Branch and Railway Protection Force (RPF) staff / Delhi Main checked 56 packages during loading of Leased Front Brake-Van (SLR) of Train No.2916 (and not 1916 as mentioned in the Question). Ashram Express on 3-3-2004. Out of these 8 packages were detected having 886 Kgs. Silver Ingots, chains, utensils; 73 Kgs. Gold ornaments and biscuits; Rs.55,03,255/- in cash, (total worth Rs.1.77 crores approximately) which were seized by Delhi Police Special Branch Under Section 102 of Criminal Procedure Code and deposited with Delhi Railway Police. Later on, all seized consignments were handed over to the Income Tax Department.

The packages were loaded in leased Front-SLR of train No.2916 Ashram Express by M/s Jai Laxmi Parcel Service, Ahmedabad. The party had declared the contents of packages as general goods in the Forwarding Note and accordingly Parcel Way (PW) Bill No.845922 dated 3-3-2004 was issued to the lease- holder by the Railway.

(c): The Railways have been asked to take following preventive measures:-

(i) For detection of explosive materials, dog squads are being utilised.

(ii) The Lease-Holders are asked to furnish a certificate that no illegal goods are being transported in the leased SLR.

(iii) Government Railway Police (GRP), RPF and Commercial staff have been advised to gear up intelligence in a coordinated manner and keep a close watch on movements of suspicious characters in the Station area.

(iv) To avoid recurrence of such incidents, surprise checks are conducted by the Railways.