

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:36
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2004
SMUGGLING OF GOLD THROUGH PARCEL WAGONS
Munshiram Shri ;Pingle Shri Devidas Anandrao

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there were a number of cases of smuggling of gold worth lakhs / crores of rupees through parcel wagons in important trains of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any major arrest has been made in this regard;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether there are cases of involvement of some officers of Railways and Railway police in such smuggling cases;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) the names of States from where maximum number of cases of smuggling have been reported; and
- (h) steps being taken to check this menace?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD)

(a) to (h): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF STARRED QUESTION No. 36 BY SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE AND SHRI MUNSHI RAM TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 2.12.2004 REGARDING SMUGGLING OF GOLD THROUGH PARCEL WAGONS.

(a) & (b): No, Sir. However, 04 (four) cases of carrying of gold, silver and currency, misdeclaring them as general goods, were noticed in Ashram Express, Andhra Pradesh Express and Mumbai Rajdhani Express.

On 03.3.2004 on an information received from Army Intelligence, the Leased front brake van of 2916 Ashram Express was checked and 886 Kilograms (Kgs.) of Silver, 7.3 Kilograms (Kgs.) of gold and Rs.55,03,255/- in cash (Total worth Rs.1.77 Crores approx.) were seized by Delhi Police Special Branch with the assistance of Railway Protection Force. Case was handed over to Delhi Police for further inquiry. They have referred the case to the Income Tax Department.

In the 2nd case on 03.4.2004, a team of Railway Protection Force and Railway Vigilance staff detected 614 KGs. of silver valued approximately Rs. 1 (one) crore, booked as general goods and about to be loaded in the rear brake van of Andhra Pradesh Express at New Delhi Railway Station. The parties affected had filed the case in the Delhi High Court and the goods are being released to the parties after imposing appropriate fines under the Railways Act, after clearance from the Income Tax Department.

In the 3rd case, on 02.7.2004, on an information received by the Railway Vigilance, suspected packages were unloaded from the front brake van of Ashram Express and 600 Kilograms of silver, 11 Kilograms of gold, Rs.41,68,330/- in cash and precious stones worth Rs.65,000/-, totally valued at Rs.1.5 crore were seized. Case was handed over to Government Railway Police / Delhi Main who have registered a case under section 420, 406, 36 of the Indian Penal Code and Section 163 of the Railways Act, 1989 with the arrest of one accused. Further enquiries are on.

In the 04th case, on 01.8.2004 the Leased brake van of 2952 Rajdhani Exp. was checked by Railway Protection Force / New Delhi and gold and silver weighing 605 KGs. and currency Notes of Rs.1000 denominations totally valued Rs. 1 (one) crore was seized. From the same train, on 02.8.2004, on arrival at Mumbai Central, 02 more packages containing approximately 250 Kilograms of silver, valued approximately Rs.12,10,000/- was seized. All these valuable items had been declared as general goods. Cases under the Railways Act, 1989 were registered against 03 accused at New Delhi and they were convicted with fines. Case against 02 accused registered under the Railways Act in Mumbai is under trial.

(c) A total of 07 accused have been arrested including 2 Lease holders.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir. No involvement of any officers of Railways and or Railway Police in such cases has come to light.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) In all the cases, the goods had been loaded in Delhi /New Delhi stations of National Capital Territory, Delhi.

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

1. The Lease Holders are asked to furnish a certificate that no illegal goods are being transported in the leased

Second Class Luggage Brake Van.

2. Government Railway Police (GRP), Railway Protection Force 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.

3. To avoid recurrence of such incidents, surprise, checks are conducted by the Railways.