

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:146

ANSWERED ON:26.02.2009

PASSENGER SAFETY

Surendran Shri Chengara, Thomas Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is increase in the number of cases of burglary, looting and other crimes against passengers in various long distance trains:

(b) if so, the number of such instances reported during the last one year, zone-wise including Southern zone; and

(c) the efforts made by the Railways to check such incidents and ensure passengers fearfree journey in trains?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 146 BY SHRI P.C. THOMAS AND SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 26.2.2009 REGARDING PASSENGER SAFETY.

(a): Yes, Sir. There is marginal increase in the instances of offences against travelling passengers in trains including in long distance trains reported and registered over Indian Railways during the year 2008 in comparison to the year 2007.

(b): During the year 2008, total 7,946 instances of crime including Burglary were reported in trains over Indian Railways as against 7860 cases during the year 2007. Out of which, 396 cases were reported over Southern Zone i.e. in the states of Kerala and Tamilnadu during the year 2008 as against 287 cases reported during the year 2007. Comparative statement showing the cases on various heads of crime reported in trains over Indian Railways (State-wise) during the year 2007 and 2008 is placed at Appendix. The cases of passenger offences are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police, which functions under the control of State Governments concerned.

(c): Although the Policing on Railways is the duty of State Police through Government Railway Police, however, to provide better security to the traveling passengers in trains and passenger areas, the RPF Act, 1957 and the Railways Act, 1989 have been amended in the year 2003 to enable the Railways, through the Railway Protection Force, to effectively supplement the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways and to ensure that the State Police (Government Railway Police) get more time to handle heinous offences such as Murder, Dacoity, Robbery, Rape etc. including Sabotage and Train Wrecking, under the provisions of Indian Penal Code, the Railways Act and other laws of the land.

The following preventive measures are being taken for the security of passengers:-

1. Important crime prone mail / express trains are being escorted by RPF in coordination with GRP.
2. After the amendment in RPF Act and Railway Act, 1257 trains are escorted by RPF daily on an average by deploying 3904 RPF personnel. In addition, about 2329 trains are escorted by Government Railway Police daily on an average by deploying 4560 personnel. 710 important Railway stations have been provided with about 3898 RPF staff for access control duty daily.
3. The train escorting parties are being briefed to remain extra vigilant in trains at the affected stations / sections.
4. Necessary announcements are frequently being made through Public Awareness System and use of loud hailers at the general coaches of the trains and during line bandobast to desist passengers for purchasing / accepting eatables from unauthorized hawkers and unknown persons while travelling by train or at the platform.
5. During the year 2008, RPF have detected 844 cases of Indian Penal Code (IPC) offences and arrested 655 criminals and forwarded them to concerned GRP for further legal action. In addition, during the year 2008, 13.85 lakhs persons have also been arrested and prosecuted by Railway Protection Force under the provisions of the Railways Act with a view to keep trains and passenger area at Railway stations free of anti-social elements.
6. Regular coordination meetings are being conducted with State Police and Government Railway Police to discuss crime trends and formulate effective strategies to contain crimes.

7. Ladies' compartments of sub-urban trains are normally being escorted by GRP.Special Squads comprising women TTEs and women RPF personnel are deployed in vulnerable sub-urban sections, especially during the non-peak hours when likelihood of commission of crime against women is more.

8. Regular drives are conducted by RPF against male passengers travelling in ladies compartments and the offenders detected are prosecuted under the provisions of the Railways Act.