

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5630

ANSWERED ON:29.04.2010

INFORMATION REGARDING TERROR ATTACK

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have received any intelligence alert that terrorists were planning to attack some major luxury trains in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether due to 26/11 incident and this fresh intelligence feedback, the bookings of luxury trains such as Deccan Odyssey and the Maharaja Express have decreased;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Railways to increase the security on board and take other security related steps to boost the security of passengers and trains?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA)

(a)&(b): Indian Railways do receive periodic alerts on possible attacks on trains including luxury trains.

(c)&(d): A total of 10 scheduled trips of Deccan Odyssey were cancelled upto April 2009 after the 26/11/2008 attack. However, 02 scheduled trips were also cancelled prior to the attack due to economic slow down. Therefore, these cancellations were due to the combined impact of economic slow down and 26/11 terror attack. During 2009-10, no cancellations took place and operation was smooth. The Maharaja Express has been launched recently in March 2010.

(e) 'Policing on Railways' is a State subject and prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are, therefore the statutory responsibility of the State Police, which they discharge through the Government Railway Police (GRP) of the State concerned. However, Railway is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by deploying Railway Protection Force staff to escort important trains in addition to trains escorted by Government Railway Police (GRP).

In addition, following steps are being taken by the Railways in coordination with Government Railway Police (GRP), Civil Police and IRCTC to improve the security of luxury trains:-

1. Close liaison with local police, GRP, State and Central Intelligence agencies is maintained.
2. Trains are being escorted.
3. Anti-sabotage checks of the rakes are being conducted with the help of sniffer dogs wherever available in coordination with GRP / Police
4. Security Guards are provided to protect the rakes at stations during halt.
5. Random frisking of passengers is done and luggage is checked manually as well as by x-ray scanners wherever installed.