

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5003

ANSWERED ON:26.08.2010

LOOTING IN TRAINS

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Kumar Shri Vishwa Mohan; Thamaraiselvan Shri R.; Yadav Shri Dharmendra

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Lal Quila Express and Howrah-Amritsar Express trains have been looted in Bihar recently;
- (b) if so, the details of enquiry conducted in said cases;
- (c) whether the Railway Protection Force has failed to provide safety to the passengers in these trains;
- (d) if so, the action taken against the official responsible for such lapse;
- (e) whether the Railways have announced compensation to the passengers for the valuable articles looted by the dacoits;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the number of passengers killed and injured in the said incidents and the steps taken by the Railways to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): On 06.08.2010, Train No. 3111 Kolkata – Delhi Lal Quila Express was stopped by miscreants at Kundar Halt between Jamui – Mananpur Railway stations in Jhajha – Kiul section over East Central Railway in Bihar by pulling alarm chain. The miscreants numbering around 20/25 looted the passengers travelling in 4 sleeper coaches and 1 air-conditioned coach. On resistance by the Government Railway Police escorts, the miscreants opened fire causing bullet injury to one of the Constables. Government Railway Police/ Jhajha has registered a case vide crime no. 24/2010 dated 06.08.2010 under section 147, 148, 149, 323, 324, 353, 332, 224, 307, 379 Indian Penal Code and 27 Arms Act.

On the night of 08.08.2010 some miscreants looted the passengers of Train No. 3049 Howrah – Amritsar Express while the train was running between Lahabon and Telwa Block Halt in Jasidih – Jhajha section over Eastern Railway in Bihar. Government Railway Police/ Jhajha has registered a case vide crime no. 30/ 2010 dated 09.08.2010 under section 395 Indian Penal Code.

(c) and (d): No Railway Protection Force personnel was deployed in these trains.

(e) and (f): No, Madam. Railway rules do not provide compensation for loss of personal belongings carried by passenger in his charge unless booked for carriage against a receipt and unless it is proved that the loss, destruction, damage or deterioration was due to negligence or misconduct on its part or on the part of any of Railway personnel.

(g): No passenger was killed in the above incidents. However, one Constable of Government Railway Police and 15 passengers sustained injury in the incident took place in Train No. 3111 Lal Quila Express and 6 passengers sustained injury in the incident took place in Train No. 3049 Howrah – Amritsar Express.

'Policing on Railways' is a State subject and prevention of crime, registration of cases and their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments concerned which they discharge through the Government Railway Police (GRP) and Civil Police. Railways bear 50% cost of expenditure on the Government Railway Police. As such Railway has to depend largely on the State Governments. RPF does not have any legal power to prosecute the offenders involved in criminal offences like dacoity/ robbery/ theft of passengers' belongings, drugging etc.

Following measures are being taken by the Railways for the security of passengers:-

1. 1275 trains are escorted by Railway Protection Force daily on an average, in addition to escorting of 2200 trains by Government Railway Police of different States.
2. The Ministry of Railways has been closely coordinating with the State Governments for prevention and detection of crimes on

Railways and maintenance of law and order.

3. A coordination meeting with the State Home Secretaries, officials of Ministry of Home Affairs, Intelligence Bureau and Railways was held on 20.01.2010 at Rail Bhavan, New Delhi.
4. Regular coordination meetings are being conducted with GRP and Civil Police by Railways at Zonal and Divisional level to review the crime position in Railways.
5. An amendment in the RPF Act is under examination to enable RPF to deal with the passenger related offences more effectively.