

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:56
ANSWERED ON:11.11.2010
GUIDELINES FOR SECURITY OF PASSENGERS
Ramasubbu Shri S.,Sainuji Shri Kowase Marotrao

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have issued guidelines from time to time to Railway Protection Force (RPF) regarding security and safety of passengers and their belongings;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Railways are aware of the increase in the incidents of extremists, bandh organisers and anti-social elements targeting the trains and other railway properties at regular intervals in various parts of the country;
- (d) if so, the number of such incidents reported during the last three years, till date; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Railways to prevent recurrence of such incidents and ensure adequate safety and security to the railway properties and the travelling public?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS(KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 56 BY SHRI MAROTRAO SAINUJI KOWASE AND SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 11.11.2010 REGARDING GUIDELINES FOR SECURITY OF PASSENGERS.

(a): Yes, Madam. 'Policing' on Railways is a State subject. Prevention of crime, registration/ investigation of cases and maintenance of law and order in Railway are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments concerned, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP) and the Civil Police. Railway Protection Force does not have any legal power to prosecute the offenders involved in criminal offences on Railways.

However, necessary guidelines / instructions are being issued from time to time from Railway Board to Railway Protection Force officers to coordinate with Government Railway Police and Civil Police to take necessary steps jointly to ensure security of passengers and their belongings.

(b): RPF officers have been advised to hold frequent coordination meetings with Government Railway Police and State Police Authorities to share crime intelligence, analyse crime trends, to impress upon them for arresting the gangs operating and to take joint preventive measures for controlling crimes. They have been advised to make surprise checks in the worst affected trains in crime prone areas/sections to make the RPF and GRP escorts more effective.

RPF officers have also been advised to constitute joint teams of RPF and GRP to detect the cases of passengers offences of serious nature reported frequently. They have been advised to deploy maximum force jointly with GRP and Local Police during bandh/agitation by various activists/outfits including Left Wing Extremists (LWE) for safety and security of passengers and their belongings.

(c) and (d): There has been a rise in the incidents of attacks by various extremist groups and other outfits on critical infrastructure of Railways. The Railways because of its vast network and expanse, has become a soft target for them. The incidents of attacks of LWE and other outfits reported during the last two years and the current year are as under:-

Year No. of incidents of attack No. of Bandhs

2008 30 391

2009 60 309

(e): Steps taken for safety and security of passengers and their belongings:-

(i) Nominated trains are escorted by Government Railway Police (GRP) and Railway Protection Force (RPF) on the vulnerable sections / areas. 1275 trains are being escorted by RPF daily on an average, in addition to escorting of about 2200 trains daily by GRP.

(ii) 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.

(iii) A coordination meeting with the State Home Secretaries, officials of Ministry of Home Affairs, Intelligence Bureau and Railways was held at Rail Bhavan, New Delhi in which various security issues were discussed encompassing almost all the aspects concerning passenger security, tackling Naxal / Militancy problems etc.

(iv) An amendment in the Railway Protection Force Act has been approved by the Railway Ministry and is being sent to the Ministry of Law and Justice to enable Railway Protection Force to deal with the passenger related offences more effectively.

(v) An Integrated Security System costing Rs. 353 crores has been approved to strengthen surveillance mechanism over sensitive and vulnerable Railway stations. In the first phase, it is being implemented at 202 sensitive Railway stations.

(vi) On the request of Railways, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India has issued directions to the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar and West Bengal to make additional deployment of Civil Police, GRP and Central Para Military Forces to avoid attacks on Railway infrastructure and avert any likely disaster