

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5025
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2010
TERRORIST THREAT TO PASSENGERS
Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways are aware that train passengers are often targeted by extremists, terrorists, anti-social and criminal elements across the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Railways have reviewed the current position and have taken effective steps in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

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

(a): The Pan-India nature of the network and the volume of traffic handled, makes Railways a soft target for terrorists, extremists, anti-social and criminal elements. These forces target the Railway system, which results in innocent passengers becoming victims.

(b) and (c) '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 are therefore the statutory responsibility of the State Governments concerned which they discharge through their Government Railway Police (GRP) and Civil Police. Railways bear 50% cost of expenditure on the Government Railway Police. Position of such incidents are reviewed from time to time by Railways during co-ordination meetings with Government Railway Police (GRP) and otherwise also.

Following steps are being taken for safety and security of passengers:-

- (i) Nominated trains are escorted by Government Railway Police (GRP) and Railway Protection Force (RPF) on the vulnerable sections/areas.
- (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. Concurrence of Ministry of Law & Justice has been received to the above proposal and after the comments of Ministry of Home Affairs it will be forwarded to Cabinet Secretariat for approval 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.