GOVERNMENT OF INDIA RAILWAYS LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1322 ANSWERED ON:03.03.2011 CRIMES IN KERALA BOUND TRAINS

Antony Shri Anto; Biju Shri P. K.; Kodikunnil Shri Suresh; Kurup Shri N.Peethambara; Sudhakaran Shri K.; Thomas Shri P. T.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of the Railways have been drawn to a case of a rape and murder occurred in a ladies compartment of the Eranakulam Shornur Passenger Train, between Vallathol Nagar and Shornur Railway stations in Kerala February, 2011;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of such incidents reported in the last 6 months in the State of Kerala;
- (c) whether the Railways have given any compensation to the victim's family;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Railways have any plan to deploy security personnel particularly in Ladies Compartments; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with other measures contemplated to arrest the rising crimes in Kerala bound trains?

Answer

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

- (a) and (b): On 01.02.2011, Ms. Soumya was travelling from Ernakulam to Shornur in the ladies coach of train no. 56608 passenger. One person entered the coach at Vallathol Nagar Railway station. At about 20.30 hrs, while the train was running between Vallathol Nagar and Shornur Railway stations, the said person pushed her from the train and also jumped from the train. Further, he raped her after inflicting grievous injuries on her head. On receipt of information, local police Cheruthuruthi rushed to the spot and found the victim at KM No. 3/600-700 between Vellathol Nagar and Shornur Railway stations. She was immediately shifted to Medical College hospital, Mulagunnathukavu, Trissur, where she succumbed to her injuries on 06.02.2011. In this connection local police Cheruthuruthi registered a case vide crime no. 41/1 under section 302 / 376 Indian Penal Code. On 02.02.2011, Government Railway Police arrested one person named Govindasamy @ Charly, and handed him over to local police Cheruthurthi. No other incident of rape and murder in railway premises and trains has been reported in Kerala State during last six months.
- (c) and (d): A sum of Rs. 3.15 Lakh as enhanced ex-gratia has been paid by Railways to Smt. Sumathi, mother of the victim Ms. Soumya. Besides this, compensation is payable as per award of Railway Claims Tribunal, against claims preferred by the next of kin.
- (e) and (f): Prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Police, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP) of the State concerned. As such the cases of crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police. Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of Government Railway Police (GRP) by deploying escorts in important trains in affected areas. In addition to action taken by Government Railway Police, Railway Protection Force escort has been provided in the vulnerable passenger trains between 06 PM to 06 AM in Kerala State. RPF escort staff are travelling in the coach adjacent to the ladies coach.

Besides, following measures are being taken by the Railways to check such incidents and security of passengers in trains:-

- 1. 1275 trains are escorted by RPF daily on an average, in addition to 2200 trains escorted by Government Railway Police of different States.
- 2. An Integrated Security System consisting of electronic surveillance of vulnerable stations through CCTV camera network, access control, anti-sabotage checks has been approved to strengthen surveillance mechanism over 202 sensitive and vulnerable Railway stations.
- 3. Regular coordination meetings are held with State Police at all levels to ensure proper registration and investigation of crime by Government Railway Police (GRP).
- 4. Passenger awareness programmes are organized frequently to sensitize the travelling public about the modus operandi adopted by the criminals to fleece the passengers.
- 5. An amendment in the RPF Act is under examination to enable RPF to deal with the passenger related offences more effectively.