

>

Title: Need to ensure protection and safety of women passengers and strengthen security measures in long distance trains.

SHRI K. P. DHANAPALAN (CHALAKUDY): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir I would like to raise a very important issue before this august House.

There are several incidents of attacks against women in trains by passengers and even by the railway staff. Three such cases were reported in Kerala recently wherein in one case, a girl was raped and killed. Violence against women in trains is increasing in the recent times. No proper security measures are adopted by the Railways to ensure the protection and safe journey of women passengers. Especially in long distance trains, security measures are completely lacking for women. Moreover, cases of theft in long distance trains are also increasing. Several such cases are reported and in some cases, valuable belongings of the passengers like cash, jewellery and certificates are lost. Railways have also not increased the number of police personnel for duty in trains for nearly 30 years. State police have to get entry pass from the Railway Protection Force to enter train compartments. Out of 254 trains passing through Kerala, no security is provided in 144 trains. Security of passengers is a matter of concern for everyone.

Therefore, I would request the Government to initiate measures to improve the safety conditions of women in trains. The Government may start a special force to ensure this. Special compartments for ladies should be provided in long distance trains to ensure their protection and measures should also be taken to stop the incidents of theft in trains.

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (VIZIANAGARAM): Sir, kindly allow me to associate with the issue raised by Shri Dhanapalan on attacks against women in trains.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right.