GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1618 TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2019

CRIMES IN MOVING TRAINS

1618. DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether registering cases of crime on running trains is a complicated process due to confusion of jurisdiction and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether due to this, passengers face great difficulties to register theft and other criminal cases on moving trains and if so, the details thereof:
- (c) whether the Railway Protection Force is not empowered to register crimes on a moving train;
- (d) if so, whether to ease the situation the Government is planning to give powers to Railway Protection Force to handle the complaints of crimes on a moving train; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1618 BY DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 13.02.2019 REGARDING CRIMES IN MOVING TRAINS

(a) to (e): Policing on Railways being a State subject, prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law & order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP)/District Police. Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP to provide better protection and security of passenger area & passengers and for matters connected therewith. However, to facilitate travelling passengers in running trains to report a crime, First Information Report (FIR) forms are available with TTE, Guard or RPF/GRP train escorting staff. After filling it up, the Form may be handed over to one of the said officials for registration of the case at the next Police Station irrespective of the jurisdiction. If the place of occurrence does not fall in their jurisdiction, the case is registered under Zero FIR and transferred to the concerned Government Railway Police Station having jurisdiction. Further course of action is taken by the Police as per extant legal provisions.

RPF is not empowered for registration and investigation of passenger related crime in station premises or moving trains. A proposal has been initiated for amendment in the Railways Act, 1989 which inter-alia envisages empowerment of RPF to deal with cases of theft of passengers' belongings and to initiate legal action against accused persons apprehended for insulting modesty of women passengers. After completion of inter-Ministerial consultations, proposal has been forwarded to the Cabinet Secretariat for approval.
