

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3862
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2004
DACOITY IN HIMGIRI EXPRESS
Murmu Shri Hemlal

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether incidents of dacoity in Himgiri Express and other trains have recently occurred due to non-deployment of Railway Police Patrol party;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and the reasons therefore; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. During the period from 1st July to 31st October, 2004, 30 incidents of dacoity were reported in various trains including Himgiri Express over Indian Railways. On 06.10.2004, at about 0730 hrs. an incident of dacoity was reported in Himgiri Express between Lakhi Sarai and Hathidah Railway Stations. 02 miscreants were apprehended by the passengers with the help of local people and cash Rs. 500/-, one mobile phone and one gold chain was recovered from their possession. This train was not escorted by Government Railway Police (GRP) / Railway Protection Force (RPF). Railway Protection Force escorts are deployed in trains in co-ordination with Government Railway Police to supplement them.

(c): In order to improve safety and security of passengers traveling by trains, the RPF Act, 1957 has been amended to enable Railway Protection Force to effectively supplement the efforts of the Government Railway Police (GRP) of the State Governments in controlling Crime. As such, RPF escort parties, as far as possible are deployed for escorting of important trains, withdrawing the staff from various scheduled duties to assist GRP in improving the law and order situation, actively w.e.f. from 1st July, 2004. Approximately 1288 train escort parties of RPF are deployed daily for this purpose in addition to strengthening security in Railway premises to supplement the efforts of the State Government Railway Police (GRP). Deployment of Railway Protection Force is done without interfering with the "Policing" responsibilities of the State Governments in maintaining law and order.

Recruitments to fill up the vacancies of the Railway Protection Force has been expedited.