

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:303
ANSWERED ON:24.03.2005
STRENGTHENING OF RPF
Singh Shri Uday;Verma Shri Rajesh

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railway Protection Force has been assigned more powers to deal with crimes in trains;
- (b) if so, whether after delegating more powers to Railway Protection Force, the crime rate in trains has been reduced;
- (c) if so, the facts thereof;
- (d) whether Railway Protection Force has not been properly providing services in trains;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the Railway Protection Force has been equipped with latest equipment to prevent crime in trains;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to upkeep the technology used by the RPF ?

Answer

MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD)

(a) to (h): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.303 BY SHRI UDAY SINGH AND SHRI RAJESH VERMA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 24.3.2005 REGARDING STRENGTHENING OF RPF.

(a): Yes, Sir. The RPF Act, 1957 and the Railways Act, 1989 have been amended to enable the Railways, through the RPF, to effectively supplement the efforts of the Governments in controlling crime on the Railways. The Railway Protection Force staff are being deployed to escort many trains and deployed in the passenger area to augment the efforts of the State Governments. RPF has also been empowered to deal with the minor offences affecting the train operations such as alarm chain pulling, roof travel, touting, ticket less travel, unauthorized entry etc. (except Sabotage related offences under Sections 150 to 152) amending the Railways Act w.e.f. July 2004. The objective is to ensure that the State Police (Government Railway Police) get more man power and time to handle heinous offences such as Murder, Dacoity, Robbery etc. including Sabotage and Train Wrecking, under the provisions of Indian Penal Code, the Railways Act and other laws of the land.

(b) & (c) : Yes, Sir. The offences of Dacoity, Robbery, Theft and Theft of passengers` belongings etc. in trains and railway premises have reduced during the period July to December 2004 in comparison to the period January to June 2004. The other cognizable offences like Murder/ Attempt to murder, Kidnapping & abduction have, however, marginally increased. The details are given below:-

Crime	January to June 2004	July to December 2004
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Dacoity	82	50
Robbery	201	198
Theft of passengers` belongings	6066	5542
Murder & attempt to murder	179	186
Kidnapping and Abduction	37	44

Total cognizable offences 10,431 10,643

(d) & (e) No, Sir. From July, 2004 Railway Protection Force is providing a daily average of 1,217 escort parties in the affected trains, in co-ordination with the State Governments, for which an average of 3,712 staff are deployed. 480 stations on the average are also given additional security by Railway Protection Force with deployment of 2,705 personnel daily. These deployments are in addition to the Government Railway Police personnel deployed on trains and in the railway premises, in order to further strengthen the security. The offenders apprehended by RPF staff are forwarded to the concerned Government Railway Police with detailed report regarding the offence for registration of cases and further legal action. The six months period is too short to gauge the overall effect of Railway Protection Force providing additional services. Due to increased presence of uniformed personnel, more cases tend to get noticed, reported and registered.

(f) to (h): The Railway Protection Force is being equipped with additional road vehicles numbering 48 Buses, 152 Jeeps and 119 Motor Cycles costing above Rs. 9 Crores. Communication equipments numbering 3142 of 5 Watt walkie-talkies and 123 numbers of 25 Watt VHF sets, costing above Rs. 4 Crores. In this connection, funds have been sanctioned and matter is under process. Besides, compact and effective weapons (5.56 mm INSAS Rifles numbering 1000 costing Rs. 3.02 crores) have been provided. For the current financial year 1,000 INSAS rifles and 500 carbines, totally costing 3.58 crores, are being procured.

Prior to 1st July 2004, the Railway Protection Force personnel were imparted special training in the form of Re-orientation course w.e.f. 05.01.2004 to 26.04.2004 to make them aware of their additional responsibilities. In addition, the supervisory Railway Protection Force staff were trained along with other Commercial and Operating staff of the Railways in Customer Care through a professional agency.