

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2421
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2016
Strengthening RPF
Parthipan Shri R.;Singh Shri Bhola

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways has considered the proposal for amendment in the RPF Act, 1957 with a view to empowering RPF to deal with the passenger related offences;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Railways to ensure that the passengers travelling in trains are safe with their belongings?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): A proposal for amendment in the Railway Protection Force (RPF) Act, 1957, to empower RPF to deal with passengers related offences in the passenger area, was moved by the Ministry of Railways with the concurrence and approval of Ministries of Law and Justice and Home Affairs. The proposal was forwarded to Cabinet Secretariat for consideration. However, Cabinet Secretariat advised for comments of States on the above proposal. Accordingly, comments were solicited from respective States on the above proposal.

Comments have so far been received from 27 States. 19 States/Union Territories (UTs) have opposed the move to amend the RPF Act, 07 States/UTs have given their consent, 01 UT has not offered any comment and reply is yet to be received from 04 States. However, Ministry of Home Affairs has now conveyed that they do not support the proposal for amendment in the RPF Act.

(c): Since most of the States are opposing the proposal for amendment in the RPF Act and in the light of the communication received from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the matter is being further considered in the Ministry of Railways and a final decision will be taken in due course.

(d): It is pertinent to mention that prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order over Railways is the statutory responsibility of States, which is being discharged by them through Government Railway Police (GRP). Since RPF do not have requisite legal powers for investigation of crime against passengers and their belongings, Railways have to depend upon GRP for investigation of passenger related offences. However, RPF supplement efforts of GRP for security of passengers and passenger area.

Following steps are being taken by the Railways to ensure security of passengers and their belongings-

1. On vulnerable and identified routes/sections, 2500 trains (on an average) are escorted by RPF daily, in addition to 2200 trains escorted by GRPs of different States daily;
2. Security Help Line number 182 is made operational over Indian Railways for security related assistance to passengers in distress;
3. Surveillance is kept through CCTV cameras, provided at 344 stations over Indian Railways, to ensure safety and security of passengers;
4. Joint drives by Commercial Department and RPF are conducted from time to time against the entry of unauthorized persons in trains and railway premises.
5. The ladies special trains running in Metropolitan cities are being escorted by lady RPF constables.
6. Regular coordination is made by RPF with the State Police/GRP authorities at all levels to ensure security in Railway premises as well as on running trains.
