GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 473 ANSWERED ON 09.12.2022

CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN PASSENGERS

473 SHRI JOSE K. MANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have the data regarding the incidents of crime against women passengers in the railways for the last two years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Railways have noticed an increase in the incidents of crimes against women passengers even after the Railways has issued new guidelines to prevent such incidents;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether Railways have taken any steps to improve the proper implementation and increase the awareness of these guidelines across the country, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(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. 473 BY SHRI JOSE K. MANI ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 09.12.2022 REGARDING CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN PASSENGERS

(a) to (e): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and, therefore, State Governments are responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and maintenance of law and order on Railways through their law enforcement agencies viz. Government Railway Police (GRP)/Local Police. Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP/Local Police to provide better protection and security of passenger area and passengers and for matters connected therewith.

Based on the data published by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) available upto 2021, there is considerable decrease in the cases of crime against women passengers reported over Indian Railways during the year 2021 as compared to the year 2019. Data of crime in the year 2020 is not considered for comparison as the passenger train operation was severely curtailed due to the onset of Covid-19. During the last three years i.e. 2019, 2020 & 2021, the number of cases registered for crime against women passengers are 580, 205 and 278 respectively over Indian Railways.

The following steps are being taken by the Railways in coordination with GRP for safety and security of passengers, including women passengers, in train and in railway premises:-

- 1. On vulnerable and identified routes/sections, trains are escorted by Railway Protection Force in addition to trains escorted by Government Railway Police of different States daily.
- 2. For immediate assistance, passengers can make complaint on Rail Madad Portal directly or through Helpline Number 139 (integrated with National Emergency No. 112).
- Railways are in regular touch with passengers through various social media platforms viz. Twitter, Facebook, Koo etc. to enhance security of passengers and to address their security concerns.
- Surveillance is kept through CCTV cameras provided in 6368 coaches in trains and 861 Railway stations for enhanced security of passengers.
- 5. Frequent announcements are made through Loud Hailers, Public Address System etc. to sensitize passengers to take precautions against theft, snatching, drugging etc.
- 6. Under 'Meri Saheli' initiative, focused attention has been provided for safety and security of lady passengers travelling alone by long distance trains for their entire journey i.e. from originating station to destination.
- 7. Zonal railways have been instructed for deployment of proper combined strength of male & female RPF/RPSF personnel in train escort parties, to the extent possible.

- 8. Emergency Talk Back System and Closed Circuit Television Surveillance Cameras have been provided in ladies compartments/coaches of all newly manufactured Electrical Multiple Unit (EMU) and Air-conditioned rakes of Kolkata Metro. Flasher lights have also been provided in ladies coaches in EMU rakes in some zonal railways.
- 9. Awareness campaigns through, posters, banners and distribution of leaflets etc. are conducted on regular basis to educate passengers as well as women passengers for taking necessary precautionary measures during the journey.
- 10. Nukkad Nataks, Dramas, Plays etc. are performed at railway premises to make the women passengers aware of the nature of crimes and preventive measures to be taken in the case of any exigency.
- 11. Special squads are deployed in short distance trains for security of women passengers from time to time.
- 12. Frequent drives are conducted against entry of male passengers into the compartments reserved for ladies.
- 13. State Level Security Committee of Railways (SLSCR) have been constituted for all State/Union Territories under the Chairmanship of respective Director General of Police/Commissioners of Police in States/Union Territories for regular monitoring and review of security arrangements of the Railways.
