GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 235 ANSWERED ON 21.07.2023

LOSS TO RAILWAYS DUE TO PROTESTS

235.	CHDI	ID A NINI A	KADADI:
<i>2</i> 33.	SUKI	IKANNA	KADADI:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) data in relation to the losses that are being suffered by Government because of the protests;
- (b) data in relation to the public property that has been damaged because of the protests in the past three years;
- (c) the number of stone pelting incidents that have been reported in the country in the past three years;
- (d) steps being taken by the Government to address the same issue; and
- (e) whether Government is planning to frame any policy to prevent such protests from happening near the railway tracks?

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. 235 BY SHRI IRANNA KADADI ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 21.07.2023 REGARDING LOSS TO RAILWAYS DUE TO PROTESTS

(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)/District Police. Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP/District Police to provide better protection and security to railway property, passenger area and passengers and for matters connected therewith. Cases of damage, destruction of government property including railway property are registered and investigated by the concerned GRP/State Police under IPC & Railways Act.

During the past three years i.e. 2020, 2021 & 2022, Indian Railways suffered a loss of ₹1.78 Cr., 0.68 Cr. & 259.44 Cr. respectively due to damage/destruction to railway property during agitations.

4,233 incidents of stone pelting on trains were reported over the Indian Railways during the last 3 year i.e. 2020, 2021 and 2022,

In order to safeguard the lives of passengers and damage to Railway Property due to vandalizing by miscreants, the following steps are taken by RPF in coordination with GRP/District police & Civil administration:-

- 1. Collection and sharing of Intelligence inputs with all intelligence agencies.
- 2. Cyber patrolling and collection of technical intelligence using modern technological tools is being done to collect inputs on these types of activities.
- 3. Deployment of Police/GRP & RPF personnel at vulnerable places with riot gears and Arms & Ammunition.
- 4. Special training for mob control is being imparted to RPF personnel to deal with riots/ unlawful assemblies and to respond to such eventualities effectively.
- 5. The train escorting parties have been sensitized to remain more vigilant in the vulnerable sections/spots, where incidents of vandalizing on trains are frequently reported.
- 6. Various awareness programme including OPERATION SATHI are conducted regularly in inhabited areas adjacent to Railway track to sensitize people towards the menace of stone pelting and its consequences.
- 7. Public are being made aware of the consequences arising out of agitation leading to damage & destruction of railway property during these agitations.

- 8. Detailed guidelines have been issued regarding action to be taken to control incidents of stone pelting on moving trains. Analysis of these incidents followed by substantive action is taken to curb these incidents.
- 9. Regular drives are conducted against anti-social elements like drunkard, mischievous elements etc. in the effected section/black spots and the apprehended persons are prosecuted under legal provisions of law.
- 10. Regular co-ordination with GRP/Local Police is maintained by RPF, sharing the critical information to control the menace of pelting of stones on trains.
- 11. For immediate assistance passengers can make complaint on Rail Madad Portal directly or through Helpline Number 139 (integrated with National Emergency No. 112).
- 12. 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.
- 13. Surveillance is kept through CCTV cameras provided in coaches in trains and Railway stations for enhanced security of passengers
- 14. State Level Security Committee of Railways (SLSCR) have been constituted for all State/Union Territories under the Chairmanship of respective Director General of Police/Commissioner of States/Union Territories for regular monitoring and review of security arrangements of the Railways.
