

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 369
ANSWERED ON 04.04.2025

SAFETY AND SECURITY OF WOMEN PASSENGERS IN TRAINS

*369 SHRI VAIKO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether incidents of attacks and violence against women passengers in running trains and at stations have increased in the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the manner in which Government is ensuring passenger safety and security, especially women passenger in trains and at railway stations;
- (d) whether trains will be escorted by Railway Protection Force (RPF) in addition to Railway Police of different States on vulnerable and identified routes/sections, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether there are plans to deploy more security personnel and surveillance systems, especially on vulnerable routes and at odd hours?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING 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 STARRED QUESTION NO. 369 BY SHRI VAIKO ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 04.04.2025 REGARDING SAFETY AND SECURITY OF WOMEN PASSENGERS IN TRAINS

(a) to (e): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Therefore, State Governments are responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and maintenance of law and order on Railways.

State Governments maintain law & order through Government Railway Police (GRP) and 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.

Data related to molestation and assault of women are provided by State Governments to National Crime Records Bureau for its publication. This is available on their official website. The data for the years 2023 and 2024 have not yet been published for carrying out comparison with previous years.

The following steps are being taken by the Railways in coordination with GRP/Local Police for safety and security of passengers including women passengers in trains and at railway stations:-

- i. Railway Help Line number 139 (integrated with Emergency Response Support System No. 112) is operational (24x7) over Indian Railways for security related assistance to passengers in distress.
- ii. The present strength of women personnel in RPF is 9.5 percent which is highest amongst the CAPFs in India.
- iii. A reservation quota of six berths in sleeper class in long distance Mail/Express trains and a reservation quota of six berths in 3AC class of Garib Rath Rajdhani/Duronto/fully air-conditioned Express trains for female passengers .
- iv. A combined reservation quota of six to seven lower berths per coach in Sleeper class, four to five lower berths per coach each in Air Conditioned 3 tier (3AC) and three to four lower berths per coach in Air Conditioned 2 tier (2AC) classes (depending on the number of coaches of that

class in the train) has been earmarked for senior citizens, female passengers 45 years of age and above and pregnant women.

- v. Exclusive unreserved coaches/compartments for female passengers in EMU (Electrical Multiple Unit)/DMU (Diesel Multiple Unit)/MMTS(Multi Modal Transport System) trains & local passenger trains.
- vi. Running of ladies special EMU/MEMU/MMTS services on the suburban sections of Mumbai, as well as other sections.
- vii. Surveillance is kept through CCTV cameras provided in more than 10,000 coaches and at more than 1000 railway stations for enhanced security of passengers.
- viii. 'Meri Saheli' initiative has been launched with an objective to provide enhanced safety and security to lady passengers travelling alone in long distance trains for their entire journey i.e. from the originating station to destination station.
- ix. Frequent announcements are made through Public Address System .
- x. Drives are conducted to restrict entry of male passengers into the compartments reserved for ladies.
- xi. Use of various social media platforms like. Twitter, Facebook, etc. are used to address the security concerns of railway passengers.
- xii. Second class accommodation for women in the second Class-cum-Luggage-cum Guard's Coach (SLR) in most of the long distance Mail/Express trains.
- xiii. State Level Security Committee of Railways (SLSCR) have been constituted 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.
- xiv. Further to fill up the existing vacancies in RPF/RPSF, Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) has issued notifications in April/May 2024 for recruitment of 452 posts of Sub-Inspectors and 4208 posts of Constables of which 15 percent is reserved for the women.

- xv. 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.
- xvi. Zonal railways have been instructed for deployment of proper combined strength of male & female RPF/RPSF personnel in train escort parties.

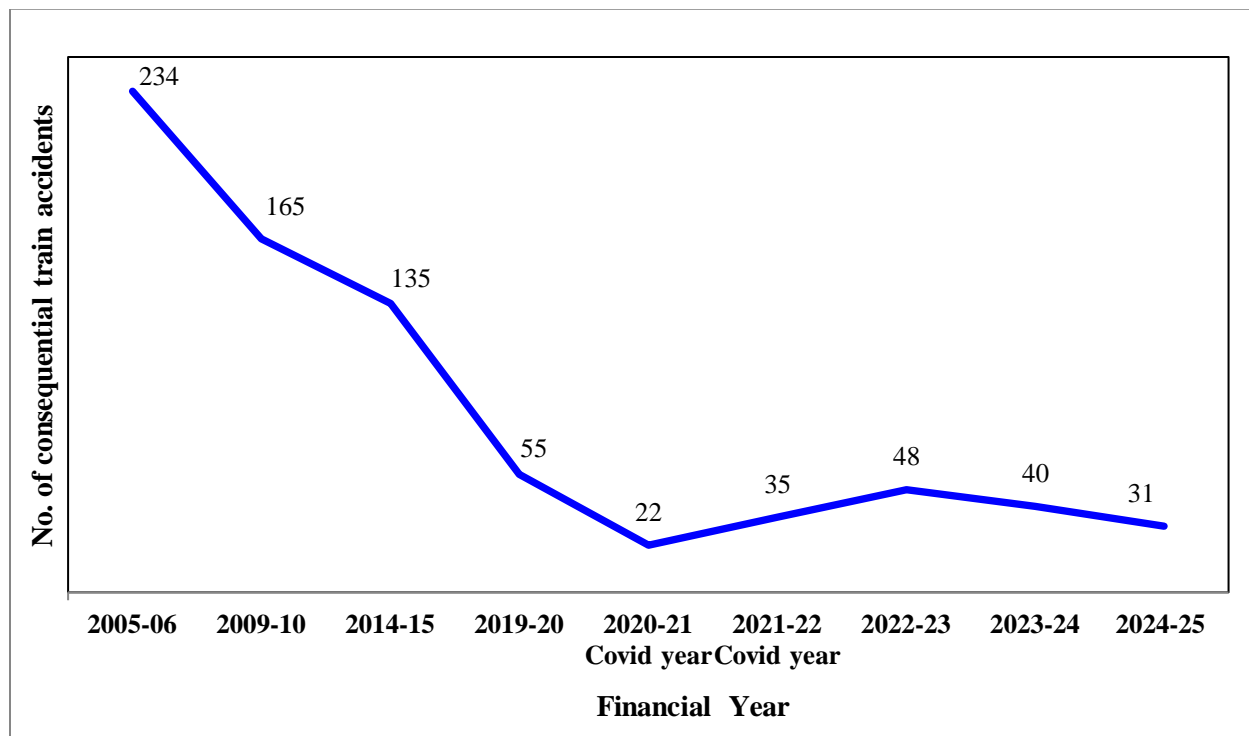
The deployment of security personnel in trains is decided based on the vulnerability of the concerned trains/sections, timing, location of the area, threat perception of the hinterland, analysis of past crime data among others. However, the deployment of RPF staff is assessed regularly and as per existing strength, optimum deployment is made in trains/at stations for prevention of crime in Railways in coordination with GRP. Therefore, the deployment of security personnel is dynamic and keeps changing from time to time.

Safety in Train Operations

Safety is accorded the highest priority on Indian Railways. As a consequence of various safety measures taken over the years, there has been a steep decline in the number of accidents. Consequential Train Accidents have reduced from 135 in 2014-15 to 31 in 2024-25 as shown in the graph below.

It may be noted that the Consequential Train Accidents during the period 2004-14 was 1711 (average 171 per annum), which has declined to 31 in 2024-25.

Another important index showing improved safety in train operations is Accidents Per Million Train Kilometer (APMTKM) which has reduced from 0.11 in 2014-15 to 0.03 in 2024-25, indicating an improvement of approx. 73% during the said period.



The various safety measures taken to enhance safety in train operations are as under:-

1. On Indian Railways, the expenditure on Safety related activities has increased over the years as under:-

Expenditure on Safety related activities (Rs. in Cr.)					
	2013-14 (Act.)	2022-23 (Act.)	2023-24 (Act.)	RE 2024-25	BE 2025-26
Maintenance of Permanent Way & Works	9,172	18,115	20,322	21,800	23,316
Maintenance of Motive Power and Rolling Stock	14,796	27,086	30,864	31,540	30,666
Maintenance of Machines	5,406	9,828	10,772	12,112	12,880
Road Safety LCs and ROB/ RUBs	1,986	5,347	6,662	8,184	7,706
Track Renewals	4,985	16,326	17,850	22,669	22,800
Bridge Works	390	1,050	1,907	2,130	2,169
Signal & Telecom Works	905	2,456	3,751	6,006	6,800
Workshops Incl. PUs and Misc. expenditure on Safety	1,823	7,119	9,523	9,581	10,134
Total	39,463	87,327	1,01,651	1,14,022	1,16,470

2. Electrical/Electronic Interlocking Systems with centralized operation of points and signals have been provided at 6,623 stations up to 28.02.2025 to eliminate accident due to human failure.
3. Interlocking of Level Crossing (LC) Gates has been provided at 11,089 level Crossing Gates up to 28.02.2025 for enhancing safety at LC gates.
4. Complete Track Circuiting of stations to enhance safety by verification of track occupancy by electrical means has been provided at 6,631 stations up to 28.02.2025.
5. Kavach is a highly technology intensive system, which requires safety certification of highest order. Kavach was adopted as a National ATP system in July 2020. Kavach is provided progressively in phased manner. Kavach has already been deployed on 1548 RKm on South Central Railway and North Central Railway. Presently, the work is in progress on Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah corridors (approximately 3000 Route Km). Track side works on these routes have been completed on about 2066 RKm. Regular trials are being done on these sections.
6. Detailed instructions on issues related with safety of Signalling e.g. mandatory correspondence check, alteration work protocol, preparation of completion drawing, etc. have been issued.
7. System of disconnection and reconnection for S&T equipment as per protocol has been re-emphasized.
8. All locomotives are equipped with Vigilance Control Devices (VCD) to improve alertness of Loco Pilots.
9. Retro-reflective sigma boards are provided on the mast which is located two OHE masts prior to the signals in electrified territories to alert the crew about the signal ahead when visibility is low due to foggy weather.
10. A GPS based Fog Safety Device (FSD) is provided to loco pilots in fog affected areas which enables loco pilots to know the distance of the approaching landmarks like signals, level crossing gates etc.
11. Modern track structure consisting of 60kg, 90 Ultimate Tensile Strength (UTS) rails, Prestressed Concrete Sleeper (PSC) Normal/Wide base sleepers with elastic fastening, fan shaped layout turnout on PSC sleepers, Steel Channel/H-beam Sleepers on girder bridges is used while carrying out primary track renewals.
12. Mechanisation of track laying activity through use of track machines like PQRS, TRT, T-28 etc to reduce human errors.
13. Maximizing supply of 130m/260m long rail panels for increasing progress of rail renewal and

- avoiding welding of joints, thereby improving safety.
14. Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) testing of rails to detect flaws and timely removal of defective rails.
 15. Laying of longer rails, minimizing the use of Alumino Thermic Welding and adoption of better welding technology for rails i.e. Flash Butt Welding.
 16. Monitoring of track geometry by OMS (Oscillation Monitoring System) and TRC (Track Recording Cars).
 17. Patrolling of railway tracks to look out for weld/rail fractures.
 18. The use of Thick Web Switches and Weldable CMS Crossing in turnout renewal works.
 19. Inspections at regular intervals are carried out to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices.
 20. Web based online monitoring system of track assets viz. Track database and decision support system has been adopted to decide rationalized maintenance requirement and optimize inputs.
 21. Detailed instructions on issues related with safety of Track e.g. integrated block, corridor block, worksite safety, monsoon precautions etc. have been issued.
 22. Preventive maintenance of railway assets (Coaches & Wagons) is undertaken to ensure safe train operations.
 23. Replacement of conventional ICF design coaches with LHB design coaches is being done.
 24. All unmanned level crossings (UMLCs) on Broad Gauge (BG) route have been eliminated by January 2019.
 25. Safety of Railway Bridges is ensured through regular inspection of Bridges. The requirement of repair/rehabilitation of Bridges is taken up based upon the conditions assessed during these inspections.
 26. Indian Railways has displayed Statutory “Fire Notices” for widespread passenger information in all coaches. Fire posters are provided in every coach so as to educate and alert passengers regarding various Do’s and Don’ts to prevent fire. These include messages regarding not carrying any inflammable material, explosives, prohibition of smoking inside the coaches, penalties etc.
 27. Production Units are providing Fire detection and suppression system in newly manufactured Power Cars and Pantry Cars, Fire and Smoke detection system in newly manufactured coaches. Progressive fitment of the same in existing coaches is also underway by Zonal Railways in a phased manner.
 28. Regular counselling and training of staff is undertaken.

29. Concept of Rolling Block introduced in Indian Railways (Open Lines) General Rules vide Gazette notification dated 30.11.2023, wherein work of integrated maintenance/ repair/replacement of assets is planned up to 52 weeks in advance on rolling basis and executed as per plan.

The details of the Safety related works related to better maintenance practices, Technological improvements, better infrastructure and rolling stock etc. undertaken by Railways are tabulated below:-

S.No.	Item	2004-05 to 2013-14	2014-15 to 2024-25 (till Jan 25)	2014-25 Vs. 2004-14
	Technological improvements			
1.	Use of high-quality rails (60 Kg) (Km)	57,450 km	1.4 lakh km	More than 2 times
2.	Longer Rail Panels (260m) (Km)	9,917 km	76,000 km	More than 7 times
3.	Electronic Interlocking (Stations)	837 stations	3,243 stations	4 times
4.	Fog Pass Safety Devices (Nos.)	As on 31.03.14: 90 nos.	As on 31.01.25: 25,293	281 times
5.	Thick Web Switches (Nos.)	Nil	27,079 nos.	
	Better maintenance practices			
1.	Primary Rail Renewal (Track Km)	32,260 km	49,000 km	1.5 times
2.	USFD (Ultra Sonic Flaw detection) Testing of Welds (Nos.)	79.43 lakh	1.9 crore	More than 2 times
3.	Weld failures (Nos.)	In 2013-14: 3699 nos.	In 2024-25: 301 nos.	92 % reduction
4.	Rail fractures (Nos.)	In 2013-14: 2548 nos.	In 2024-25: 243 nos.	91% reduction
	Better infrastructure and Rolling stock			
1.	New Track KM added (Track Km)	14,985 nos.	34,000 km	More than 2 times
2.	Flyovers (RoBs)/ Underpasses (RUBs) (Nos.)	4,148 nos.	12,771 nos.	More than 3 times
3.	Unmanned Level crossings (Nos.) on BG	As on 31.03.14: 8948	As on 31.03.24: Nil (All eliminated by 31.01.19)	Removed
4.	Manufacture of LHB Coaches (Nos.)	2,337 nos.	41,551	More than 17 times