

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1410  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.02.2021**

**MERI SAHELI INITIATIVE**

**1410. SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI:  
SHRI SELVAM G.:  
SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR:  
SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:  
SHRI GAUTHAM SIGAMANI PON:**

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Railways has launched 'Meri Saheli' initiative to focus on the safety of women passengers and if so, whether this initiative is extended to all zones;**
- (b) if so, the number of women RPF personnel deployed for this purpose;**
- (c) whether it is a fact that there is very less number of ladies' compartments in various trains running on important routes in the country and if so, whether the Government deutes/proposes to depute Railway Protection Force in ladies' compartments for the security of women passengers;**
- (d) whether the Government is running ladies special EMU/MEMU/MMTS services on the suburban sections of Mumbai and Chennai and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to increase the number of ladies' compartments/coaches to ensure adequate safety of women passengers in trains?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMERCE & INDUSTRY AND  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**

**(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

**(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.**

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1410 BY SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI, SHRI SELVAM G., SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR, SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR AND SHRI GAUTHAM SIGAMANI PON TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 10.02.2021 REGARDING MERI SAHELI INITIATIVE.**

**(a) and (b): 'Meri Saheli' initiative was launched as Pilot Project by Railway Protection Force (RPF) across South Eastern Railway for security of women passengers in trains originating in that zone. Considering its success in instilling a sense of security among women passengers, this initiative has been rolled over to all zonal railways across Indian Railways' network from 17.10.2020. Meri Saheli Initiative was launched to provide safety and security to lady passengers travelling by trains for their entire journey from originating station to terminating station. Dedicated teams of lady RPF personnel have been formed across all zonal railways for its implementation. Presently, 1176 number of women RPF personnel are being deployed for this purpose on average daily basis across Indian Railways network.**

**(c): Section 58 of the Railways Act, 1989 provides for earmarking of accommodation for female passengers in trains. Accordingly, in trains carrying passengers, Indian Railways have earmarked following accommodation for female passengers:**

- i. 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 irrespective of their age travelling alone or in a group of female passengers.**
- ii. 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) for senior citizens, female passengers 45 years of age and above and pregnant women.**

- iii. 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.**
- iv. 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 depending upon demand pattern as well as availability of accommodation.**

**The deployment of RPF guard including women RPF personnel in ladies coaches 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 of data among others. Therefore, the deployment is dynamic and keeps changing from time to time. However, Ladies Special trains running in Metropolitan cities are being escorted by lady RPF personnel.**

**(d) and (e): Presently, 14 ladies special trains are operational over Western and Central Railway serving Mumbai area. These are being supplemented by 20 trains having partial earmarking of 03 coaches in the trains which are in addition to the regular earmarking of 3 coaches/4 coaches in 12 Car/15 Car trains. Over Southern Railway, serving Chennai area, 21 services have earmarking of 6.5 coaches/5.5 coaches in 12 Car/9 Car trains. Besides, introduction of additional trains, including Ladies special trains, and augmentation of trains, is an on-going process on Indian Railways.**

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