GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1556
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2021

SAFETY OF WOMEN IN TRAINS

1556.   SHRI KHAGEN MURMU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to provide safety and security to the women passengers, who travel by trains, for their whole journey from the starting station to the destination station; and

(b) the measures taken by the Government to ensure that high-speed trains connect tourist hubs, pilgrimage spots and other crucial areas?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND

ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) and (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) AND (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1556 BY SHRI KHAGEN MURMU TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 28.07.2021 REGARDING SAFETY OF WOMEN IN TRAINS

(a) : Policing on Railways being a State subject, prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law & order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Government, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP)/District Police. However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP to provide better protection and security of passenger area & passengers. Cases of Indian Penal Code (IPC) crime in Railways are registered and investigated by the concerned Government Railway Police. However, following measures are being taken by the Railways in coordination with Government Railway Police to ensure security of women passengers:-

1. RPF has taken several measures to provide better security of women passengers. An Pan-Indian initiative "Meri Seheli" was launched by RPF on 17.10.2020 with objective provide enhanced safety and security to lady passengers travelling by trains for their entire journey i.e. from the originating station to destination station. The focus is to provide the security to lady passengers especially those travelling alone and to instill a sense of security in them. Teams of lady officers and staff have been formed who are well trained and briefed about the objective.

2. On vulnerable and identified routes/section, trains are escorted by Railway Protection Force in addition to trains escorted by Government Railway Police of different States daily.

3. Security Help Line Number 139 (Tollfree) is made operational (24X7) over Indian Railways for security related assistance to passengers in distress.

4. Provision of baggage scanners, Under Vehicle Scanning System (UVSS), Bomb Detection equipments, DFMDs and HHMDs etc. have also been made.

5. Station Security Plan is being implemented at major stations in phased manner to enhance access control, improve surveillance and achieve synergy between deployment of various security agencies on the station.

6. Through various social media platforms viz. Twitter, facebook etc., Railways are in regular touch with passengers including women to enhance security of passengers and to address their security concern.

7. Frequent announcements are made through Public Address System to educate passengers to take precaution against theft, snatching, drugging etc.

8. Fixed CCTV cameras have been provided in 4010 coaches and 814 Railway stations for enhancing security of passengers.

9. Drives are conducted against entry of male passengers into compartments reserved for women passengers.

10. 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.

11. Running of ladies special EMU/MEMU/MMTS services on the suburban section of Mumbai, Kolkata, Secunderabad and Chennai as well as on the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) sections.

12. Ladies Special trains running in Metropolitan cities are being escorted by lady RPF personnel. In other trains, where escorts are provided, the train escorting parties have been briefed to keep extra vigil on the lady passengers travelling alone, ladies coaches en-route and at halting stations.

13. For safety of ladies passengers, 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. This system has also been provided in all newly manufactured Air-conditioned EMU rakes and Electric Train Sets.

14. With a view to further fortify the security system, in addition to CCTV Cameras and Emergency Talk Back System, Flasher lights have also been provided in ladies coaches in EMU rakes in some zonal railways. These lights starts blinking and buzzer will start sounding once the alarm chain is pulled and it will continue till resetting of alarm chain.

15. 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/full air-conditioned Express trains for female passengers irrespective of their age travelling alone or in a group of female passengers.

16. 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.

(b) : At present Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) project is the only High Speed Rail (HSR) project sanctioned in the country and is under execution. It connects major cities and hubs like Ahemdabad, Sabarmati, Vadodara, Surat and Mumbai. High Speed Rail projects are highly capital intensive and their sanction depends upon several factors such as technical feasibility, financial viability and availability of financing options.

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