

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2426  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2022**

**CURBING HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**2426. SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B.:**

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

- (a) whether the Railway Protection Force (RPF) has launched a nationwide operation to curb human trafficking ;**
- (b) if so, whether the RPF shall deploy special teams on all long distance routes;**
- (c) whether the RPF shall act as a bridge cutting across States to assist the local police in the mission to curb human trafficking and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether the RPF is planning to start cyber cells for patrolling the web/social media to look for digital footprints of human trafficking; and**
- (e) whether the focus shall be more on trains originating from districts bordering Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar and if so, the action plan chalked out in this regard?**

**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.**

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2426 BY SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B. TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 16.03.2022 REGARDING CURBING HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**(a) to (e): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and, as such, State Governments are responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and maintaining law and order etc. 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 of passenger area and passengers and for matters connected therewith. RPF is not empowered to investigate cases of Human Trafficking and whenever any case of suspected human trafficking is detected by RPF, the same is reported to GRP/District Police. The persons rescued and apprehended are handed over to concerned Police for further necessary action as per law. Close co-ordination with Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) of State police is maintained for information sharing and planning joint action against human trafficking.**

**However, in order to leverage the Pan-India reach, visible presence in railway stations and trains and effective response mechanism of RPF to supplement the efforts of State police, operation AAHT has been launched by RPF to take effective action in cases of Human Trafficking through railways. A detailed Security Circular No.03/2022 dated 02.02.2022 in this regard has been issued.**

**Cyber cells of RPF are used for assisting during investigation/enquiry done by inquiry officers of RPF i.e. under the provisions of The Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act and The Railways Act within its domain. However, in order to supplement the efforts of State police, cyber cells have been instructed for cyber patrolling of the web/social media to look for digital footprints/traces of human trafficking in the internet and to cull out the clues helpful in taking action against Human Trafficking through railways.**

**Also, field formations of RPF have been sensitized to act proactively involving all the stakeholders to prevent any type of Human Trafficking through railways particularly from the vulnerable districts of the country bordering Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar.**

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