

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2702
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2024**

INITIATIVES OF OPERATION 'MERI SAHELI'

2702 SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the efficacy of measures like CCTV installation, face recognition technology and Child Help Desks (CHDs) in safeguarding vulnerable children and women on railway premises;**
- (b) the current status of the 'operation 'Meri Saheli' initiative and the impact of the said initiative on the safety of single female travelers on Railways along with future expansion plans;**
- (c) whether collaborative initiatives are underway between the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Railways and State Governments to expedite the establishment of AHTUs and if so, the nature of these initiatives and targeted timelines for completion; and**
- (d) the projected timeline for the nationwide expansion of Child Help Desks at major railway stations and the number of stations where such desks have already been provided?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

(a): CCTV cameras having the component of Face Recognition System (FRS) are installed at a number of Railway Stations & in coaches to enhance the security of Railway passengers. Also, Child Help desks (CHDs) have been setup at various stations across the Indian Railway to safeguard children in

need of care and protection. These CCTVs have been beneficial in identifying and taking suitable steps to safeguard vulnerable children and women in railway premises more effectively.

(b): Meri Saheli initiative was launched across the Indian Railways network on 17.10.2020 with the objective to provide enhanced safety and security to woman passengers travelling alone by trains for their entire journey i.e. from the originating station to destination station in long distance trains. Presently 250 Meri Saheli teams comprising of lady RPF personnel are being deployed which attended 488 trains & 12900 ladies travelling alone on an average daily. This has been helpful in providing security to women passengers and feel them safe during their travel.

(c): In order to strengthen action against Human Trafficking, RPF has established more than 750 Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) over the Indian Railways at Post (Thana) level. Also, Ministry of Home Affairs is supplementing the efforts of RPF and has sanctioned Rs. 12.6 Cr. for strengthening of these AHTUs. These AHTUs coordinate with AHTUs of Police & CAPFs (Central Armed Police Forces) i.e. Border Security Force (BSF) & Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) functioning at district level/state levels/International Borders and with Intelligence Units, NGOs and other stakeholders and take coordinated effective action on traffickers as per law.

(d): Ministry of Women & Child Development has implemented a centrally sponsored scheme “Mission Vatsalya Scheme (MVS)” where Districts have been made responsible for establishment and operation of CHDs. Indian Railways has signed an MoU with MoWCD where railways has committed for providing the space for establishment of CHDs. MoWCD has finalized setting of CHDs at 135 Railway stations and Railways has provided the space for its operation.
