## GOVERNMENT OF INIDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

# LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1613 TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.12.2025

#### **FOLLOW-UP SAFETY MECHANISM IN RAILWAY**

#### 1613. Shri K E Prakash:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is exploring the possibility of introducing a follow-up safety mechanism, such as travel check calls, digital alert systems/other modes of communication for women travelling alone for over 24 hours in trains and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there is any possibility of funding such an initiative under the Nirbhaya Fund and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government Plans to collect feedback from beneficiaries and assess effectiveness of the implementation of the said mechanism and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether such mechanism if found successful, will be considered for implementation across the country and if so, the details thereof?

#### ANSWER

# MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### (SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d) 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. However, 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.

Railway has launched 'Meri Saheli initiative on 17.10.2020 across the Indian Railway with an objective to provide enhanced safety and security to lady passengers travelling alone by trains for their entire journey i.e. from the originating station to destination station in long distance trains.

Dedicated teams of lady RPF personnel have been formed for its implementation. Presently, approx 250 RPF teams are being deployed for this purpose covering approx 500 trains on an average daily over the Indian Railways network. Meri Saheli team members brief the target passengers about the security measures to be adopted during the journey and the details of the channels available for seeking the help in distress. The RPF posts falling enroute are also informed well in advance about the movement of lady passengers travelling alone and are kept on high alert to respond to any situation without any loss of time. Computer Tablets have been provided to the teams procured from Nirbhaya Funds for quick response & ease of doing. Feedback from the lady passengers are also taken to analyze the achievements & shortcomings of this initiative with an aim to improve it further.

The following steps are also 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. 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.
- ii. Zonal railways have been instructed for deployment of proper combined strength of male & female RPF/RPSF personnel in train escort parties, to the extent possible.
- iii. Frequent announcements are made through Public Address

  System to educate passengers to take precautions against theft,
  snatching, drugging etc.
- iv. 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.
- v. Surveillance is kept through CCTV cameras provided in number of coaches and railway stations for enhanced security of passengers.
- vi. Railways are in regular touch with passengers through various social media platforms to enhance security of passengers and to address their security concerns.
- vii. Special drives are conducted to restrict entry of male passengers into the compartments reserved for ladies.
- viii. Alarm chains have been provided in all the coaches for usage to stop the train during exigencies/emergencies.