

To expedite completion of projects, a number of initiatives have been taken to generate additional resources through non-budgetary measures like Public-Private Partnership, funding by State Governments and other beneficiaries. Besides, to reduce delays on account of land availability, security issues and forestry clearances, etc meetings with State Officials are held from time to time. Contract conditions have been modified to bring in efficiency in contract management, and field units have been further empowered.

(d) 7 new line, 1 gauge conversion and 10 doubling projects are in progress in the State of Jharkhand.

Construction of road over bridges in Karnataka

1476. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the road over bridges (ROBs) which are under construction in the State of Karnataka as on date;

(b) whether Railways proposes to construct more ROBs in the State of Karnataka;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the pending proposals would be decided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Five road over bridge (ROB) are under construction in the State of Karnataka.

(b) and (c) Railways plan to construct 46 more ROBs in the State of Karnataka. These are at various stage of planning and tendering.

(d) No, Sir.

Increase in incidence of theft and robbery in trains

1477. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether frequent incidence of theft and robbery are taking place in the Southern Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) the number of cases that have been reported;
- (d) whether it is fact that passengers were harassed and suffered from food poisoning due to some anti-social people;
- (e) if so, the number of cases of food poisoning reported in the train; and
- (f) the steps taken by Government for the safety of the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (e)
The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(f) Prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Police, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP) of the State concerned. As such the cases of crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the Govt. Railway Police.

However, to provide better security to the travelling passengers in trains and passenger areas, Railway Protection Force is deployed to escort important trains to effectively supplement the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways.

The following measures are being taken for the security of passengers:

1. 1275 trains are escorted by RPF daily on an average, in addition to 2200 trains escorted by Government Railway Police of different States.
2. An Integrated Security System consisting of electronic surveillance of vulnerable stations through CCTV Camera Network, access control, Anti-sabotage checks has been approved to strengthen surveillance mechanism over 202 vulnerable Railway stations.
3. Regular coordination meetings are held with State Police at all levels to ensure proper registration and investigation of crime by Government Railway Police (GRP).
4. Public awareness against crime like Drugging of passengers is done through regular announcements at stations and in trains.

5. An amendment is under examination in the RPF Act to enable RPF to deal with the passenger related offences more effectively.

Setting up of women RPF unit

1478. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that cases of harassment of women in trains are getting increased;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government for the safety and security of women passengers; and
- (c) the measures taken by Government to implement the budget proposal of setting up of separate women RPF unit and to increase the recruitment of women in RPF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) No Sir. However, to ensure safety of women passengers various measures have been taken:

- (1) Important mail/express trains, ladies special trains are being escorted by RPF/GRP;
- (2) train escorts staff are sensitized to give top priority to security of women passengers;
- (3) surprise checks are conducted by senior Officers to ensure that instructions are followed diligently by train escort staff;
- (4) special drives are conducted and action is taken as per provisions of the Railways Act against male passengers travelling in ladies compartments;
- (5) wherever considered necessary, special all women teams have been constituted for ensuring security of women passengers.

(c) (1) 12 Mahila companies are being set up to cater to the security of women passengers. In all future recruitments for the posts of Constable and Sub-Inspector in RPF, 10% vacancies are being earmarked for ladies;

(2) To further strengthen RPF, 3 RPSF Battalions (including one Mahila Battalion) have been sanctioned.