

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.