

### **Enhancement in sanctioned strength of RPF**

\*68. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the additional powers and duties entrusted to the Railway Protection Force as per the RPF Amendment Act of 2003;
- (b) the steps taken by Railways to enhance the strength of the Railway Protection Force since the above amendment was adopted;
- (c) the total strength of RPF personnel, male and female, State/Division/Zone-wise at present;
- (d) the number of vacancies State/ Division/Zone-wise; and
- (e) how many battalions/number of women RPF commandos have been appointed under Mahila Vahini as declared in 2009-10 Railway Budget?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) With the amendments in the RPF Act 1957 in the year 2003, the ambit of duties of the Railway Protection Force has been enlarged to include protection and security of passenger area and passengers which was confined to the railway property only prior to 2003. However, legal powers have not been given to the RPF to deal with passenger related offences.

(b) Since amendments in the RPF Act in the year 2003, the strength of RPF/RPSF has been enhanced by 6107 posts. Further efforts are under process to enhance the strength of RPF/RPSF in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

(c) and (d) The sanctioned strength of the RPF is around 73,000. Arising and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process and regular notifications are issued for filling up the vacancies occurring due to superannuation, etc.

(e) Consequent to the announcement in Railway Budget last year, regarding setting up of Mahila Vahini, the process has already been initiated for creation of posts and four Companies of Mahila Vahini have already been set up.

### **Suspension of work on Nangal-Talwara rail line**

†\*69. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for suspending the work of laying of railway lines on Nangal-Talwara rail route midway after starting the work in the year 1982-83 and completing a stretch of only 11 kilometers out of total length of 83.74 kilometers;
- (b) whether Government has taken any steps to resume the work on this route; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.