

'Protected Forest.' Plantation on such land has been undertaken by Forest Departments.

(c) and (d) As per the policy, afforestation within the station premises *i.e.* near stations, in colonies, workshops, major level crossings etc. is carried out by the Railways themselves or through contracts. In the midsections, railway land may be entrusted to the State Forest Departments for undertaking plantation on railway land.

Rape cases in running trains

2546. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been increase in the rape cases on the running trains;

(b) if so, the comparative figures thereof during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether Government/Railway Police Personnel have failed to provide security to the passengers and were the last to reach the spot where the crime has happened; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) and (b) Number of incidents of rape reported on the running trains during the last three years over Indian Railways are as under:—

Year	Number of rape cases reported
2003	4
2004	9
2005	8

(c) and (d) Maintenance of law and order is a State subject and powers to investigate Indian Penal Code (IPC) crimes are vested with Police.

[17 March, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

Prevention and detection of crime is the constitutional responsibility of the State Governments and as such, Ministry of Railways has to depend largely on them for control of crime over Railways.

However, to provide better security to the travelling passengers in trains and passenger areas, Railways is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways by deploying Railway Protection Force staff to escort trains. To prevent offences against women in trains, Special Surakshini/Tejaswani Squads have also been formed consisting of women ticket checking staff (Wherever available) and women staff of Railway Protection Force (RPF)/Government Railway Police (GRP). As far as possible, the trains in affected sections are escorted by armed police personnel during night hours. During the period from July 2004 to December 2005, the Railway Protection Force has prosecuted 12,61,990 persons under the Railways Act, including 61,223 number of cases of males travelling in women's compartments. In the same period, 22 cases of offences against women were also detected by the RPF with arrest of 20 offenders who were handed over to the GRP concerned for further legal action.

New Railway projects in Maharashtra

2547. SHRITARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the new railway projects in Maharashtra and the surveys conducted in that regard alongwith the progress made in these projects;
- (b) the funds allocated for these projects, so far, and the amount spent;
- (c) whether the State Government has requested for a special package from the Central Government to complete these projects; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) and (b) The details of ongoing projects alongwith expenditure incurred, present position and targets wherever fixed are as under: