

(c) whether the jurisdiction and other powers of the said Authority have been finalized;

(d) if so, the details in this regards; and

(e) the time by which the said Authority would start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (e) The view that an independent Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority needs to be constituted for *inter alia* regulating tariff setting on Indian Railways has been articulated in various quarters. Its pros and cons as well as the modalities of constituting such a body, including its composition, role, and responsibilities are being evaluated. The exercise is presently at an exploratory stage and does not yet constitute a proposal for or against the setting up such an Authority.

Protection of premises and assets of railways

901. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking any stringent measures to prevent crime in and around railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of special powers conferred on the Government Railway Police in order to protect the premises and assets of Railways from anti-social elements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Prevention of crime against passengers, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in and around Railway station are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments concerned, which they discharge through their Government Railway Police (GRP). However, Railway Protection Force supplements the efforts of Government Railway Police by deploying their staff for access control duty at major and sensitive Railway station premises and for escorting of important trains in affected sections.

(c) The Government Railway Police is already vested with legal powers under various Laws/Acts including the Railways Act 1989 to tackle such crimes.