

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 Government Railway Police. Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of Government Railway Police (GRP) by taking the following measures:

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 sensitive and 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. Passenger awareness programmes are organized frequently to sensitize the travelling public about the modus operandi adopted by the criminals to fleece the passengers.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Compensation for death/injury in train accidents/untoward incidents as defined under section 124/124-A of the Railways Act, 1989, is paid by the Railways after a claim filed by the claimant in the Railways Claims Tribunal is decreed by the Tribunal in favour of the claimant and decree so awarded is satisfied by the Railways. As no compensation claim case has been reported to be filed by the complainant so far, no compensation has been paid by the Railways.

(e) and (f) The liability of Railways for payment of compensation to the victims of train accidents/untoward incident has already been defined under section 124/124-A of the Railways Act, 1989.

Improvement in railways

928. SHRI D. P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government is planning to appoint Rail Tariff Authority to fix tariffs;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that there is wide scope of improvement in railways; and
- (d) if so, the steps Government is taking in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) 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.

(c) and (d) Improvement/augmentation of infrastructure and amenities for rail users is an ongoing process. Significant network augmentation, operational improvements and provision of passenger amenities besides technological upgradation and modernization is envisaged in the Twelfth plan period.

Amendment in the collection of Statistics Act

929. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the official figures provided by Government seem to have little or no look with the reality;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps Government is taking for speedy amendments in the Collection of Statistics Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The Government of India has a well-organized system for collection of data. The system is operated through highly trained and skilled personnel at different levels and uses techniques and built-in checks and balances for ensuring data reliability taking in to account all the factors which are relevant for maintaining quality of data collected, compiled and made available to the public.