

Incidents of crime in Railways

*72. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that incidents of crime in Railways are increasing year after year, touching to 19000 per year, an increase of 50 per cent over the last year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and action taken thereon;
- (c) whether Government is aware that crime against women is also increasing in trains thereby making it difficult for single woman to travel in Railways; and
- (d) if so, the safety measures in place and steps taken by Railways to provide safety and security to women in trains?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) Though incidents of crime have registered upward trend during the year 2013, it is incorrect to say that there has been 50% increase in crime as compared to the previous year. There was a decrease of 3.2 % in 2012 and an increase of 21.5 % in 2013.

(b) Incidents of crime reported over Indian Railways are 22493, 21775 and 26467 during the years 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively (including 14701, 14267 and 18037 cases of theft of passenger belongings in corresponding years). In so far as action taken thereon is concerned, it is clarified that prevention and investigation of crimes over India Railways is the statutory responsibility of the Government Railway Police (GRP) of the States concerned. Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP for escort of important trains in affected areas and access control duties at important and sensitive stations.

(c) Though there is increase in crime against women in trains, it would be incorrect to say that it is difficult for single women to travel in Railways.

(d) The following measures are being taken by Railways for safety and security of women in trains:

- (i) A daily average of 1275 trains are escorted by Railway Protection Force in addition to 2200 trains escorted by Government Railway Police of different States. Almost all existing vacancies are being filled up in RPF, after which escorts will be provided in a larger number of trains.
- (ii) Ladies special trains are being escorted by lady RPF staff, wherever available,

in sub-urban sections over Central, Eastern, Northern, Western and Southern Railways. The strength of Women RPF personnel is being increased by eight (8) companies already sanctioned, and another 4000 as announced in the current budget, to further enhance security of women passengers.

- (iii) An Integrated Security System including electronic surveillance through CCTV to enhance security over 202 sensitive and vulnerable Railway stations is under implementation.
- (iv) Security Help-Line numbers have been set up in Zonal Railway Control Rooms to enable passengers to seek assistance.
- (v) It is now proposed to provide all escorts with mobile phones so that passengers may contact them conveniently and without delay.
- (vi) RPF holds regular coordination meetings with State Police at all levels to ensure proper registration and investigation of crime by Government Railway Police (GRP).

Introducing high-speed rail/bullet trains

*73. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to undertake a study for introducing high-speed rail/bullet train as part of Diamond Quadrilateral HSR Project, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) if not, whether any feasibility study has been carried out in that direction; and
- (c) whether any vital routes have been identified to immediately decongest highways, airports and traditional railway lines, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As a part of Diamond Quadrilateral High Speed Rail Project, on Mumbai-Ahmedabad sector, two pre-feasibility studies have been completed, and, two studies, one a Joint feasibility study and another a business development study is in progress, as under:

- (i) A joint feasibility study for Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Corridor, co-financed by India and Japan, which started in December-2013, will be completed in 18 months.
- (ii) A Business Development Study is being undertaken by French Railways (SNCF) which will be completed in 2014.