

[9 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: माननीय सभापति महोदय,...

श्री सभापति: आप बैठ जाइए, मैटर इज़ ओवर। श्रीमती जमना देवी बारुपाल।

**Increasing incidents of crime and violence on trains
and stations**

***70. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:†
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the wake of increasing crimes and incidents of violence on trains and stations, the Railway Protection Force will deploy Task Force on every train starting from July 1, 2004;

(b) if so, the concrete steps taken in this regard;

(c) to what extent it will help in checking the violence and robberies in trains;

(d) whether the Supreme Court has held that Railway Ministry is liable to compensate passengers who are robbed and railway administration cannot escape the liability; and

(e) the total number of train robberies which have occurred and passengers compensated after the Supreme Court's judgement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) No, Sir. The Railway Protection Force (RPF) can only supplement the efforts of the Government Railway Police force of the State Governments in controlling the crimes on the trains by providing additional deployment. From July 2, 2004, additional RPF staff have been deployed to escort trains and also at some selected Stations for ensuring security in passenger areas.

(b) 5983 RPF staff have been deployed both to escort 1256 trains and to provide additional protection at 449 station premises from 01.07.2004.

(c) The escorting of trains by RPF will relieve some of the burden on the Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel. The Government Railway Police of the State Governments can now concentrate better on prevention,

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the house by Shrimati Jamana Devi Barupal.

detection and prosecution of serious offences against the railway passengers and the railway system.

(d) Sir, even though in Civil Appeal No. 2252 of 1999, the Hon'ble Supreme court has held the Railways liable for compensation for deficiency in service and consequently for robbery of the unbooked belongings of the Appellant, Ministry of Railways is processing for filing of review petition to Hon'ble Supreme Court against this judgement.

(e) approximately 59 robberies have been reported after the judgement of the Hon'ble Spreme Court. No compensation claim has been paid by the Railway for robbery of belongings of the passengers after the Supreme Court's judgement, as it is being contested.

श्रीमती जमना देवी बारुपाल: सभापति जी, मैं आपके द्वारा माननीय रेल मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहती हूँ कि क्या रेलवे में पिछले तीन-चार महीनों से डाके-चोरियों की घटनाएं अधिक हुई हैं और क्या रेलवे बजट में इसके लिए कोई उपाय सुझाए गए हैं, जिनसे ऐसी घटनाएं कम हों? क्या राज्य सरकारें भी इस सुरक्षा के लिए, सैन्य सहायता के लिए, अधिक देंगी? सभापति महोदय, पिछले दिनों में बीकानेर और लुहारू के बीच में रात को चलती ट्रेन में अंदर घुसकर बैग वगैरह चुराने की घटनाएं हुई हैं (व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति: यह कौन सी तारीख को हुआ?

श्रीमती जमना देवी बारुपाल: तारीख बता दूंगी मैं.... (व्यवधान) ऐसा है कि यह थोड़ी लंबी बात है इसलिए मैं तारीख बताने में झिझक रही हूँ। उस महिला ने जब स्टेशन पर जाकर थानेदार को और पुलिसकर्मियों को बताया तो उन्होंने उसके साथ जरा भी सहानुभूति नहीं बरती और उस महिला को कम से कम 10-12 हजार रुपए का नुकसान उठाकर लुहारू से बीकानेर जाना पड़ा। इसलिए मैं आग्रह करती हूँ कि इसके लिए अधिक से अधिक उपाय किए जाने चाहिए।

श्री सभापति: उपाय किस बात के लिए एक्सीडेंट्स ज्यादा हों इसके लिए या एक्सीडेंट्स रोके जाएं, इसके लिए?

श्रीमती जमना देवी बारुपाल: उपाय तो इन घटनाओं को रोकने के लिए ही किये जाने चाहिए। चोरी डकैती रोकने और महिलाओं की सुरक्षा के लिए उपाय किए जाने चाहिए।

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, the Railway Protection Force is deployed to supplement the efforts of the State police. Maintenance of law and order and protection of passengers are the responsibilities of the State Police up till now. But, now, we have amended the Act to clothe the Railway Protection Force with some more powers to take care of the passengers

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and the station areas. We have now deployed about 5,983 RPF staff to escort 1256 trains and provide additional protection to 748 station premises from 1.7.2004, Sir, we are now concentrating on how best to prevent these kind of offences in the Railways. We are having coordination meetings with the Home Secretary and the DGPs of the respective States so that the information can be gathered and given to the RPF, which is operating in the trains. Sir, these are the steps that we are taking.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.

श्री संजय निरुपम: सभापति महोदय, पटना में कहावत है कि आना फ्री, जाना और फ्री और अगर पकड़े गए तो खाना फ्री।

प्रो. राम देव भंडारी: आपकी सरकार के समय में आपके प्रधानमंत्री जी के रिश्तेदार को चलती ट्रेन से उतारकर फेंक दिया गया था...(व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति: भंडारी जी, बैठिए, इन्होंने कहा—आना फ्री, जाना फ्री और खाना फ्री। मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि आप बिहार में ज्यादा से ज्यादा यात्राएं करें।

प्रो. राम देव भंडारी: महोदय, बिहार का दाना-पानी है इनमें।

श्री सभापति: चलिए, चलिए, सुब्बारामी रेड्डी जी, आप पूछिए।

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, recently, on 25th and 27th May, and on 2nd, 3rd and 8th, June, on alternate days, crimes have taken place in trains. It is true that day-before-yesterday, in the Railway Budget, the hon. Railway Minister, Shri Lalu Prasad, had allocated a lot of money towards maintaining internal security. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what concrete steps he is taking by spending money outside the Budget provision. Are you going to have more communication systems? What I mean is, if a crime takes place, you should be able to communicate and inform the other police officials for providing adequate security to the people.

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, I have already explained to the House that we are deploying additional police force and we are also taking steps to enhance the exchange of information. The suggestion that you have made is how best we can transmit information through certain other communication systems. We will examine it, and necessary action will be taken.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, my concern is regarding thefts and other crimes that are taking place in the trains. Normally, the maximum

number of victims are those passengers who travel by long-distance trains. And, especially, it is so with the passengers travelling in South bound trains. We come from Kerala to all these Northern places. There are soft victims like, nurses and women, who have to travel back to their States, and there are service personnel, military personnel, who go back during their annual vacation. Sir, there are some areas where these kind of activities are taking place frequently. Would you identify these areas and make special efforts to stop these kind of activities?

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, in certain areas like, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Bihar, these kind of crimes are more in number. Sir, keeping in view the problems faced by the women passengers, we are now proposing to induct female security personnel in the trains so that they can access the female compartments and deal with such crimes.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, the hon. Member, Shrimati Jamana Devi Barupal, had very rightly put the question, but a specific reply was not given to that. However, I am not insisting on that. Sir, part(d) of the question is, "whether the Supreme Court has held that Railway Ministry is liable to compensate passengers who are robbed and railway administration cannot escape the liability." My question is: In view of the judgement, what decision has been taken by the Railway Ministry? Are you going to compensate for the robbery or dacoity, or, for the injuries that are caused to the passengers in such attacks? What kind of policy has the Ministry of Railways formulated in this regard? Please be specific.

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, as far as the recent incident where a lady, who was travelling from Nagpur to Mumbai is concerned, I would like to say that some of the ticket-less passengers got into the train and forcibly taken away her valuables. So, she filed a case in the State Consumer Forum, which was decided in her favour. Later on, the Railway Administration went on appeal before the National Commission, which annulled the decision. She went to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court said that there was a deficiency on the part of Railways, and, as such, it had to compensate for the loss. Now, the Railway Ministry is considering whether to go in for a review or not. Sir, it is because the Railways, as such, are not responsible for divisional services. That kind of a situation is to be tackled by the State Police, namely, the State Government Railway Police. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let me complete. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will complete. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. MULRI MAHOHAR JOSHI: How can the crime ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI R. VELU: Let me complete ... *(Interruptions)*...

डा० मुरली मनोहर जोशी: यह कैसे हो सकता है? चलती गाड़ी में स्टेट पुलिस कैसे कंट्रोल कर सकती है क्राइम को? ... *(व्यवधान)*... वहां पर स्टेट पुलिस कैसे आएगी? यह अजीब बात है सर। यह रेलवे की सिक्योरिटी का काम स्टेट पुलिस के जिम्मे आप छोड़ रहे हैं, यह कैसे हो सकता है?

AN HON. MEMBER: How is it possible.

श्री सभापति: रेलवे बजट पर जिस समय चर्चा हो, वह उपयुक्त समय है इस मामले को उठाने का। ... *(व्यवधान)*

डा० मुरली मनोहर जोशी: अब जो सवाल आया है उसका तो जवाब आना ही चाहिए।

श्री सभापति: लेकिन ज्यादा अच्छा तभी होगा जब रेलवे बजट पर इस प्रकार के प्रश्न उठए जाएंगे ... *(व्यवधान)*

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, we fully agree with you. At that time also, of course, this point can be made. ... *(Interruptions)*... But my point is very simple. My point is, what is the responsibility of the Central Government? That is all. We are not trying to score debating points. There is no point in throwing away the responsibility. It is a common responsibility of both. ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI R. VELU: There is a policy. Sir, for the kind information of the hon. Members, I may say that this is the responsibility of the State Police. So, the Railways does not come into the picture. It is a fact. This has to be necessarily borne in mind. That is why, I am saying that we are going for a review in this case. So, it is pending. The point was raised that we had not yet taken up the case and we were not compensating. A decision has been taken, not to give it for the obvious reasons that it is not our responsibility.

श्री अमर सिंह: मान्यवर, मैं बहन जी का बहुत धन्यवाद दूंगा कि उधर बैठकर उन्होंने यह सवाल पूछा है और अभी मंत्री जी ने अपने *(व्यवधान)*

श्री सभापति: मैंने आपको इजाजत दी उस पर धन्यवाद नहीं दूंगा।

श्री अमर सिंह: मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि पुलिस की राज्य सरकार की जिम्मेदारी है कि वह प्रोटेक्शन दे ऐसा आपने अपने वक्तव्य में कहा है। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि पिछले दिनों गुजरात से

रंगमंचकर्मी अहमदाबाद से बिहार जा रहे थे और उन्हें ट्रेन में पीटा गया। अब रेल मंत्री भी बिहार के हैं और उनकी सरकार भी बिहार में है इसलिए कम से कम आप तो यह आश्वासन देंगे कि अब बिहार में रेलवे में कोई क्राइम नहीं होगा।

प्रो० राम देव भंडारी: उत्तर प्रदेश में प्रधान मंत्री के रिश्तेदार को मार डाला गया
(व्यवधान)

श्री अमर सिंह: अब दोनों जगह एक ही सरकार हो गई है, केन्द्र में भी और बिहार में भी।
....(व्यवधान)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, what is this? ...*(Interruptions)*...
Sir, in our knowledge, there are only three Railway Ministers. Now, I find, there are four ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Computerised reservations facility to encourage tourism

†68. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to provide the computerized reservation facility in cities in the country having importance from the tourism point of view; and

(b) if so, the names of cities in Uttaranchal where computerized reservation facility is proposed to be provided, keeping in view of the convenience of the tourists?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Provision of computerized reservation facilities across the country is a continuous process. The extant policy provides for extending these facilities to places of tourist importance as well, subject to availability of funds etc.

(b) Computerized reservation facilities have already been commissioned at 21 locations in Uttaranchal, out of which several locations have been provided with the facilities in view of their tourist importance. In addition, computerized reservation facilities have been sanctioned at

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.