

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Policing on Railways being a State subject, prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law & order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP)/District Police. Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP/District Police to provide better protection and security of passenger area & passengers and for related matters. Based on the data provided by State Police, 97 persons have been reported dead till 09.09.2020 while travelling on board Shramik Special Trains during current Covid-19 situation/crisis. The State Police registers case under Section 174 of Cr.PC in cases of unnatural deaths and follows, further legal process.

Out of these 97 cases of death, State Police sent dead bodies for post mortem in 87 cases. 51 Post Mortem reports have been obtained from respective State Police so far, in which the reasons for deaths have been shown as cardiac arrest/heart disease/brain hemorrhage/pre-existing chronic disease/chronic lung disease/chronic liver disease etc.

(c) Railway have not collected fare from Shramiks. Shramik Specials were booked by State Governments or representative of State Governments on payment of fare. Revenue of ₹ 433 crores has been collected from State Governments and their representatives for running of Shramik Special trains till 31.08.2020. Total 63.19 lakh Shramiks/Stranded passengers have travelled in these trains.

#### **Impact of COVID-19 on Railways**

779. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the impact of COVID-19 on Indian Railways;
- (b) whether Railways has estimated the total loss to the Indian Railways due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the total expenditure incurred by the Central Government as a percentage of total expenditure incurred in running and operating Shramik Special trains during the COVID-19 lockdown?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) The COVID-19 pandemic and the nationwide lockdown has adversely impacted railway operations and

revenue in the current year. Scheduled passenger services were stopped and freight traffic is below normal. Till end of August 2020, freight loading has been 86.6% of the corresponding level of last year. Freight loading has picked up now. In August 2020 loading has been 4 percent more than that in corresponding month of last year. In September 2020 the loading has further increased by 13% compared to last year. Consequently, by the end of August 2020, Railway's traffic revenue at ₹41,844.31 cr has declined by 42.3% over the corresponding period of last year.

The projections for the year under revenue receipts and expenditure are reassessed at the Revised Estimates stage every year.

(d) Train-wise expenditure is not maintained. Therefore, the total expenditure incurred by the Central Government as a percentage of total expenditure incurred in running and operating Shramik Special trains during the COVID-19 lockdown is not available.

#### **Shramik special trains operated during lockdown**

780. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Shramik Special trains operated in the country to transport migrant workers during lockdown;

(b) the total amount collected by Railways from the migrant workers for their journey in the Shramik trains, and the reasons they were not operated free of cost to the migrant workers;

(c) the number of Shramik trains operated which lost their way and travelled in wrong direction, the reason for such incidents, and the actions taken on it; and

(d) the number of complaints received from the migrant workers on unavailability of food and water on Shramik Special trains?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Keeping in view the urgent requirement of movement of stranded persons Shramik specials were organized in a mission mode. These Shramik specials were organized as "trains on demand", as and when State Governments requisitioned these trains, in accordance with the protocol and guidelines given by the Government. In all, 4621 Shramik Special have been operated between 1st May, 2020 and 31st August, 2020 carrying 63.19 lakh passengers to their home states.