

However, the Railway Administration assist the GRP in controlling crime over Railways and following steps have been taken by the Railways:

1. Steps have been taken to sensitize the RPF personnel to the problems of women passengers by organizing workshops and seminars.
2. Ladies' compartments are escorted in some suburban areas by lady constables of GRP and RPF.
3. Special squads consisting of ladies ticket checking staff and lady RPF personnel have been formed and are operating in Central, South Central and Western Railways to assist the women passengers.

Commemoration of 150 years of Railways

5216. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways organised a year-long celebrations to commemorate 150 years of Railways in India;
- (b) if so, what was the budget for the celebrations; and
- (c) whether it involved all the Zonal Railways ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 790.27 lakh.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Downsizing in Railways

5217. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that 'human failure' behind rail accidents stems from the paucity of Group 'D' safety category staff and hence Government have decided to fill up 20,000 vacancies therein;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that Railways operations are bound to be labour intensive;
- (c) whether keeping in mind the safety aspect, RPF and RPSF have been exempted from Government's downsizing policy;
- (d) if the answers to parts (a), (b) and (c) are in affirmative how Government explains its policy of downsizing manpower by 2 per cent every year; and
- (e) what are the reasons behind accepting the downsizing policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRIBANDARU DATTATRA YA): (a) Though in majority of the incidences or Railway staff failures, leading to accidents, group 'C' staff are found responsible, group 'D' staff are feeder categories for promotion to group 'C' staff including many vital and safety categories. Hence, it has been decided to fill up more than 20,000 group 'D' vacancies.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The combatised paramilitary forces have been exempted from the purview of rightsizing, hence efforts are being made for exempting RPF/RPSF from rightsizing.

(d) The Railways are trying to reduce manpower by 2% every year to the extent possible. During the past 3 years *i.e.* 2000-01, 2001-2002 and 2002-03, Railways have been able to reduce manpower by more than 2%. Based on the projection Railways will be able to maintain the trend of achieving an average of 2% annual reduction.

(e) This is being done as per laid down policy of the Government.

Failure to achieve production capacity by public sector units

5218. SHRI TARINIKANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that all the six public sector production units of Railways failed to achieve their production capacity;

(b) if so, the reasons behind the failure;

(c) what steps are being taken to revive the production capacity of these units; and

(d) whether it is a fact that more 'independence would help these PSUs wriggle out of present condition ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. All the six production units have achieved their production targets for 2002-03. The production targets were fixed based on traffic requirements as availability of funds.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Production capacity available in these units is surplus to the present requirements of Indian Railways.

(d) It is proposed to give more autonomy to the General Managers of Production Units (PUs) to make investment decisions, freedom to adopt more