

The Chief Security Commissioners/RPF,
Northern Railway, New Delhi.

STANDING ORDER No.57

Sub: Crime against women passengers-role of RPF-regarding.

One of the important objectives before RPF is to promote passenger safety and security as defined in our mission statement. Needless to emphasise that anti-social elements cause a lot of inconvenience to the travelling public especially women passengers. Besides causing inconvenience to lady passengers it leads to loss of reputation to the Indian Railway Authorities like GRP, Railway Commercial and RPF are required to prevent the incidents of crime against women passengers.

In a recent case, some miscreants threw chilli powder on the face of a lady commuter while she was travelling in a 1st Class compartment of a local train. Police had registered a case and has taken up investigation. In preventing such types of offences against the women passengers, RPF can play an important role. Under the Railway Act, 1989, RPF as a Railway servant have adequate powers to deal with such offenders. Section 179 of Railways Act, 1989 empowers RPF to arrest offenders without a warrant and further to produce before the nearest Magistrate. The action by the RPF may go a long way in curbing the menace.

For tackling the nuisance in an effective manner the section and the trains at which the offence should be identified. A joint team of officers from Railway Commercial, RPF and GRP should be constituted which should conduct regular drives.

The vulnerable suburban sections should be identified. Ladies compartment of local trains may be escorted by women constables. The drive may be launched at vulnerable stations.

RPF personnel should be sensitised, so as to understand the problems faced by women passengers. They should be trained to react effectively to situations where crime takes place against the women passengers.

Hindi version of Standing Order will follow. The Standing Order should be translated to the regional languages and supplied to the Posts to display on the Notice Board. The RPF personnel should also be briefed on the contents of this SO.

(Signature)
(HRAO)
Director General
Railway Security

Sub: Sexual harassment of women passengers on trains.

Ref.: Letter No. 98/Sec (Cr.)/45/9 dated 25.10.2004.

NHRC has recommended the following issue: -

“The different functionaries attached to various trains ought to be sensitized to issues relating to women. The Railway Board may organise Gender Sensitization Programmes for which they could seek the help of the NGO, Jagori and other women’s groups involved in issue and than they may be incorporated into the regular programmes conducted by the Ministry of Railways for their functionaries from time to time.”

All training programmes for RPF/RPSF already contain modules covering aspects like Gender Sensitization & Human Rights.

In addition to existing programmes, a new capsule course of 5 day’s duration has also been drawn up. Training based on this new module is being introduced to RPF/RPSF personnel shortly.

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