

Court No. 1
(266111)

04.07.2024

(AD 21)

(S. Banerjee/AN)

WPA(P) 259 of 2024

Piyeta Bhattacharjee
Vs.
Union of India & Ors.

Mr. Ranojoy Chatterjee
Mr. Tamal Singha Roy

...for the petitioner

Mr. Animesh Mukherjee

...for the UoI

1. The petitioner, a practicing advocate, before this court has come forward with this writ petition highlighting a very important issue namely, unauthorized male passengers boarding and travelling in the compartments reserved exclusively for female passengers. The petitioner has pointed out various instances where the male passengers board the compartments reserved exclusively for female passengers and many a times untoward incidents occur. The petitioner has submitted a representation to the authorities and moved this court for appropriate direction.
2. The Senior Divisional Security Commissioner RPF/Eastern Railway/Sealdah has given written instruction to the standing counsel appearing for the Railways which reads as follows:

“3. In Sealdah division there are total 06 sets of Matribhomi Local (in total 12) which ply regularly over the jurisdiction of Sealdah division. Each of this Matribhoomi local train consists of 12 coaches Earmarked for Female

passengers. Regular drives are being conducted by RPF/Sealdah division against travelling of male passengers in these Matribhoomi Local trains. Apart from this, keeping in view the safety and security of female passengers travelling in Matribhoomi Local trains and any other trans, a Rail Madad portal has been open and is functional. Any complaint receive through this portal are being attend on real time basis giving utmost importance. During the period from January-2024 to June-2024 as many as 2877 persons have been arrested and prosecuted u/s-162 of Railway Act from Matribhoomi Local trains.

4. RPF/Sealdah division is conducting regular drive against travelling of male passenger in female compartment of other Local trains also. During the period from January-2024 to Jule-2024 as many as 3477 persons have been arrested and prosecuted u/s-162 of Railway Act from Ladies compartment of all trains including Matribhoomi Local trains. All 06 sets of Matribhoomi Local are being escorted by 02/04 Lady RPF/staff regular basis.

Apart from this awareness drives are also being conducted against travelling of male passengers in coaches earmarked for female over all station Sealdah division through PA system and loud hailers.

6. i. Constant actions are being taken by RPF/Sealdah division against travelling of male passengers in trains earmarked for female person. ”

3. From the above stand taken by the Railway Protection Force it is established that male passengers unauthorisedly travelling in compartments reserved exclusively for female passengers and considering the number of people

who have been arrested, this appears to be a menace. While placing on record the effective steps taken by the RPF, we observe that the frequency of conducting such drives by the RPF should be increased so that this menace can be avoided apart from making announcements in the public address system in all railway stations that if male passengers travel in compartments reserved exclusively for female passengers, they will be prosecuted.

4. With the above observation and direction this writ petition is disposed of.

(T. S. Sivagnanam)
Chief Justice

(Hiranmay Bhattacharyya, J.)