

Standing Committee Report Summary

The Railway Property (Unlawful Property) Amendment Bill, 2008

- The Standing Committee on Railways submitted its 5th Report on The Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Amendment Bill, 2008 on December 9, 2009, (Chairperson Shri T.R.Baalu). The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on December 18, 2008.
- The Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1966, is related to the unlawful possession of railway property. The Amendment Bill seeks to empower the Railway Protection Force with investigation and prosecution powers against such offences. The Committee is of the opinion that the powers proposed in the Bill are not sufficient to curb offences against railway property. The Committee suggests that there should be some statutory mechanism to improve the coordination among the state police, Government Railway Police and the Railway Protection Force.
- The Act defines 'railway property' as goods, money, valuable security or animal belonging to, or in charge or possession of, a Railway administration. According to the Railways, the definition does not include immovable property as it is covered by a separate Act, Eviction from Public Premises Act, 1971. The Committee recommends that the ambiguity in the definition of railway property should be rectified. It is of the view that the definition should be widened and the Railway Protection Force should be given more powers relating to the security and property of passengers as well.

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