GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 196
ANSWERED ON 06.08.2021

SPECIAL TRAINS

196# SHRI NEERAJ DANGI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains currently operational which are being run as special trains in the country due to COVID-19 pandemic;

(b) whether the public is getting the benefit of ordinary railway service or is paying extra due to the operation of special trains, the details thereof; and

(c) by when Government will discontinue the additional charge and mandatory reservation in special trains and provide general railway service to the public, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 196 BY SHRI NEERAJ DANGI ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 06.08.2021 REGARDING SPECIAL TRAINS

(a) As on 01.08.2021, Indian Railways, on a daily average basis, operated 6166 special train services which includes 1517 Mail/Express trains and 846 Passenger trains.

(b) and (c) To contain COVID-19 pandemic, Indian Railways have discontinued all passenger carrying trains w.e.f 23rd March, 2020. In view of the prevailing situation, only special trains, with limited stoppages, keeping in view the suggestions and concerns of State Governments and health advisories are being operated.

No new fare structure has been introduced during the Pandemic time. Only categorisation of services have been rationalised to ensure social distancing, check overcrowding in trains.

These special train services are being operated as Mail / Express Special (MSPC), Passenger Special (PSPC) and Holiday Special (HSP).

The MSPC are being operated on the fare as applicable for regular Time Tabled trains. During COVID times, as passenger demands are not uniform over different sectors, some special trains on special charges / Holiday specials / Clone trains have been introduced to meet the additional demands over different sectors as per already published fare for special trains on special charges since the year 2015. Further, unreserved second class has been declared as reserved second class in view of pandemic situation. Further, the fare in short distance travel also varies depending upon above categorisation of trains.

Indian Railways is keeping a close watch on the prevailing situation and regulating operation of train services accordingly.

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