

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.580**  
**ANSWERED ON 26.07.2024**

**OVERCROWDING OF RESERVED COACHES**

580 SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of passenger trains plying across India during Pre-COVID-19, during COVID-19, and Post COVID-19 period;
- (b) whether Government has reduced the number of general and sleeper coaches causing immense inconvenience to passengers and causing overcrowding in AC coaches;
- (c) whether Government is aware of scenes of massive rush and struggle amongst the poor public travelling in these few general coaches;
- (d) whether Government has approved such a policy causing sever inconvenience to the passengers; and
- (e) if so, reasons therefor and if not, reasons for this inconvenience to passengers?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND ELECTRONICS &  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (e) With a view to contain the spread of Covid-19 pandemic, Indian Railways had discontinued the operation of all regular passenger carrying trains with effect from 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2020 and only special train services were being operated. Indian Railways have undertaken rationalization of the time table in a scientific manner with the assistance of IIT-Bombay. The exercise has been undertaken, *inter alia*, to provide for better passenger safety by creating maintenance corridor blocks, minimizing conflicts in existing time table. Since

November-2021, Mail/Express train services are being operated as per rationalized timetable.

Indian Railways (IR), operates various types of regular time-tabled trains e.g. suburban, short distance passenger trains, long distance/Mail Express/ Superfast trains with different compositions catering to different segments of passengers. To provide greater accommodation for the passengers using General and non-AC Sleeper Coaches, the extant policy regarding composition of Mail/Express trains, provide for 12 (Twelve) General class & Sleeper class non- AC coaches and 08 (eight) AC-Coaches, in a train of 22 coaches.

Of the total number of Coaches being presently utilised for running of train services, two-third are non-AC, and one-third are AC variants.

Further, Amrit Bharat services, which have modern State-of the Art technology are equipped with advanced features like Semi-Permanent couplers for jerk free travel, horizontal sliding windows, foldable snack table and bottle holders, mobile holders etc., have been introduced by Indian Railways (IR). These services, which are fully non-AC trains, presently comprising 08 General Class coaches, are providing high quality services to the passengers.

Besides, in its constant endeavour to provide additional accommodation to travelling passengers, IR also operates Special train services during festivals, holidays, etc. and by augmenting the load of trains including that with Sleeper Class Coaches, both on permanent and temporary basis, to cater to additional demand. These are on-going processes on Indian Railways. Keeping in view increased demand, IR has planned to manufacture 10,000 non-AC Coaches including General Class and Sleeper Class Coaches.

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