

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2205
ANSWERED ON 13.12.2024

DISCONTINUANCE OF WAITLISTED TICKETS IN RESERVED COACHES

2205 DR. FAUZIA KHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Government data on the success rate of VIKALP scheme in providing confirmed alternative accommodations, and plans to expand this scheme in high-demand routes;
- (b) the details of mechanisms put in place to monitor the impact of discontinuing waitlisted tickets in reserved coaches, and in what manner Government will address potential overcrowding in general coaches; and
- (c) the details of plan of Indian railways to improve infrastructure and operational feasibility to cater increasing demand without compromising the quality of service, especially on routes with consistently high waiting lists?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) With a view to provide confirmed accommodation to waitlisted passengers and also to ensure optimal utilization of available accommodation, the Alternate Train Accommodation Scheme (ATAS) known as 'VIKALP' was launched in 2016. In VIKALP, confirmed accommodation in alternate train is provided to the eligible passengers who have opted for the same. This scheme is already available on Indian Railways on pan-India basis. During Financial Year 2023-24 approximately 57,209 passengers were allotted alternate accommodation.

(b) & (c) Waiting list tickets are issued in reserved classes to take care of berth going vacant against cancellation of confirmed berths and to help Railways to assess the demand pattern. Waiting list position of all the trains running on Indian Railways is monitored on regular basis.

In its constant endeavour to provide additional accommodation to travelling passengers, Indian Railways (IR), in addition to the various types of regular trains, also operates Special train services during festivals, holidays etc. to cater to the extra needs of passengers.

Accordingly, during the year 2024, 13523 special train trips were operated to meet the extra rush of passengers during Holi and summer vacation.

To cater to the rush during Durga Pooja/Dipawali/Chhath, 7990 trips of Special trains have also been operated during the period 1st October, 2024 to 30th November, 2024, to serve approximately 1.8 crore passengers.

IR also augments the load of trains, both on a permanent and temporary basis, to generate additional accommodation for different segments of passengers. During the year 2023-24, 872 coaches have been utilized for augmentation of train services on a permanent basis while during the year 2024-25(till November, 2024), 774 coaches have been utilized for permanent augmentation.

Further, 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, thereby providing greater accommodation for the passengers using General and non-AC Sleeper Coaches.

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

Additionally, Indian Railways have introduced Amrit Bharat services, which have modern State-of the Art technology and 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. These services, which are fully non-AC trains, presently comprising 12 Sleeper Class Coaches and 8 General Class coaches, are providing high quality services to the passengers.

Further, schemes like Upgradation have also been introduced. In upgradation scheme, waiting list passengers of lower class are provided confirmed accommodation in the higher class if there is a vacant accommodation in higher class at the time of charting. During the financial year 2023-24, more than 54 lakh passengers were upgraded to higher class free of charge.

Ministry of Railways has launched 'Amrit Bharat Station Scheme' for development of Railway stations on Indian Railways. So far, 1337 stations have been identified under this scheme. This scheme envisages development of stations on a continuous basis with a long-term approach. It involves preparation of Master Plans and their implementation in phases to improve the amenities at the stations like improvement of station access, circulating areas, waiting halls, toilets, lifts/escalators as necessary, platform surfacing and cover over platform, cleanliness, free Wi-Fi, kiosks for local products through schemes like 'One Station One Product', better

passenger information systems, Executive Lounges, nominated spaces for business meetings, landscaping etc., keeping in view the necessity at each station.

The scheme also envisages improvement of building, integrating the station with both sides of the city, multimodal integration, amenities for the Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjans) sustainable and environment friendly solutions, provision of ballastless tracks, etc. as per necessity, phasing and feasibility and creation of city centres at the stations in the long term.
