

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2975
ANSWERED ON 20.12.2024

“ACCESS FOR ALL” PROGRAM IN INDIAN RAILWAYS

2975. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of railway stations that have undergone accessibility improvements under the "Access for All" program since its inception, and the number of stations which are now fully compliant with modern accessibility standards;

(b) whether Government has collected statistics on the availability of facilities such as ramps, lifts, and accessible restrooms for differently abled passengers across major railway stations and the percentage of these stations that currently meet the required accessibility standards; and

(c) if so, provide the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c) Indian Railways is committed to make its railway stations accessible for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjans) and passengers with reduced mobility as part of “Sugamya Bharat Mission” or “Accessible India Campaign” of Government of India. In compliance of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, “Guidelines on

accessibility of Indian Railway stations and facilities at stations for differently abled persons (Divyangjans) and passengers with reduced mobility” have been circulated and notified in the Gazette of India. The guidelines include provisions of facilities for Divyangjans and passengers with reduced mobility such as entrance ramps, accessible parking, low height ticket counters/help booths, toilets, drinking water booths, subways/foot over bridges with ramps/lifts, standard signages including Braille signages and tactile pathways for visual impairment, etc. Up to the financial year 2023-24, total 1910 stations have been made fully compliant with the accessibility requirements stipulated in the guidelines.

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, lift/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 Divyangjans and persons with reduced mobility, sustainable and environment friendly solutions, provision of ballastless tracks, etc. as per necessity, phasing and feasibility and creation of city centre at the station in the long term.

Upgradation/development/redevelopment of stations and provision/improvement of amenities for passengers including facilities for differently abled persons (Divyangjans) is a continuous and ongoing process and works in this regard are undertaken as per requirement, subject to inter-se priority and availability of funds. The priority for provision/upgradation of amenities is accorded to higher category of station over lower category of station while sanctioning and executing the works.
