

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.587
ANSWERED ON 29.11.2024

REDUCTION OF SLEEPER COACHES

587 SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details about the Linke-Hofmann-Busch (LHB) rakes operated by Southern Railway in which the sleeper coaches were reduced during the last two years;
- (b) whether Government plans to increase the number of sleeper class and general class coaches in LHB rakes operated by the Southern Railway to avoid overcrowding; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c) With a view to provide better safety and travel experience, Indian Railways (IR) have inducted LHB (Linke Hofmann Busch) coaches and have undertaken the standardization of LHB rakes for better utilization of coaching assets. In its consistent effort to provide greater accommodation for the passengers using General and non-AC Sleeper Coaches, the extant policy regarding composition of Mail/Express trains provides for 12 (Twelve) General class & Sleeper class non- AC coaches and 08 (eight) AC-Coaches, in a train of 22 coaches. With a view to augment the capacity for passengers travelling in unreserved coaches, more than 600 General Class coaches have been attached, in the Mail/Express trains operating with LHB coaches during the current financial year. 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.

Further, to provide additional accommodation to travelling passengers, IR also operates Special train services during festivals, holidays, etc. and augments the load of trains including that with Sleeper Class Coaches, both on permanent and temporary basis, to cater to additional demand. Accordingly, during the year 2024, 13523 trips special trains were operated to meet the extra rush of passengers during Holi and summer vacation. To cater to the rush during Durga Pooja/Dipawali/Chhath, 7983 trips of Special trains have also been notified 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

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permanent and temporary basis, to generate additional accommodation for different segments of passengers. During the 2023-24, 872 coaches have been utilized for augmentation of train services on a permanent basis while during the year 2024-25(till October, 2024), 664 coaches have been utilized for permanent augmentation.

Furthermore, 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.
