

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 599
ANSWERED ON 29.11.2024

PRIORITISATION OF PREMIUM TRAINS

599 SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount spent on each Vande Bharat train vis-a-vis a regular functional train;
- (b) the percentage of general seats reduced and percentage proportion of AC seats that has been increased during the last five years; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Indian Railways is prioritising a premium and costly travel at the expense of making the railways inaccessible for the masses?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c) The amount spent on any train varies depending upon the composition of the train, type of coaches/propulsion and length of the train. Further, operation and maintenance amounts depend upon the type of On-Board Services, distance travelled and composition etc.

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.

Further, with a view to provide better safety and travel experience, Indian Railways 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, provide for 12 (Twelve) General class & Sleeper class non-AC coaches and 08 (eight) AC-Coaches, in a train of 22 coaches.

During the current financial year, more than 600 General Class coaches have been attached, in the Mail/Express trains operating with LHB (Linke Hofmann Busch) coaches, which will augment the capacity for passengers travelling in unreserved 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.

Further, Indian Railways have introduced 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. 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. Furthermore, 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. These are on-going processes.

Indian Railways (IR) offer different types of services for inter city travel such as Gatimaan, Shatabdi, Tejas, Amrit Bharat, Rajdhani, Mail Express Train, Namo Bharat Rapid Rail (NBRR), etc. The services are provided to fulfil the requirement of different segment of passengers including affordability of travel, safety, comfort and faster transit time.

Keeping in view the increased demand, IR has provisioned production of 10,000 non-AC Coaches including General and Sleeper Class Coaches during next two to three years to cater to the needs of masses.
