

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3290**  
**ANSWERED ON 28.03.2025**

**GENERAL SLEEPER COACHES IN TRAINS**

3290 SHRI VAIKO:

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the issue of overcrowding of trains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by Government to resolve the issue;
- (c) whether Government has decreased the number of general and sleeper coaches in major trains, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details regarding the number of general, sleeper and AC coaches increased/decreased in Mail/Express trains across the country during the last five years; and
- (e) the details regarding orders placed to the rail coach factories for general/sleeper/AC coaches for the last three years and in the current year?

**ANSWER**

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (e) On Indian Railways, occupancy pattern of trains is not uniform throughout the year and it varies over lean and peak periods. During peak rush periods, the occupancy of the trains especially on popular routes remains full whereas during lean period and on less popular routes, there is sub optimal utilization.

Traffic pattern of the trains running on Indian Railways is monitored on regular basis and to cater to additional demand, load of existing trains are augmented, special trains are run, new trains are introduced, frequency of existing trains is increased etc. subject to operational feasibility.

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.

In addition to Mail/Express trains, Indian Railways also operate unreserved non-AC passenger trains / MEMU / EMU etc. for affordable travel.

Presently, there are about 79,000 coaches being utilized for running train services. The details are as under:

<b>Class</b>	<b>No. of coaches</b>
General and Non-AC Sleeper	~ 56,000 (70% of total)
AC coaches	~ 23,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>~ 79,000</b>

Indian Railways have also introduced modern State-of the Art fully Non AC Amrit Bharat trains. These trains have advanced features like Semi-Permanent couplers for jerk free travel, horizontal sliding windows, foldable snack table and bottle holders, mobile holders etc. These trains comprise of 12 Sleeper Class Coaches and 8 General Class coaches.

To generate additional accommodation for different segments of passengers, additional coaches are also added to existing trains on a permanent and temporary basis. Details of additional coaches attached on a permanent basis during the last two years are as under:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Additional coaches attached</b>
2023-24	872
2024-25 (Till Feb 25)	983

With a view to augment the accommodation and for the benefit of passengers travelling in unreserved coaches, about 1,200 General Class coaches have been attached in the Mail/Express trains operating with LHB coaches during the current financial year 2024-25. Keeping in view increased demand of the passengers travelling by Non-AC coaches, IR has planned to manufacture 17,000 General Class/Sleeper Class Coaches.

In addition to the various types of regular trains, Indian Railways also operates Special train services during festivals, holidays, etc. to cater to the extra needs of passengers. The details of special trains operated during the year 2024 and year 2025 (till February, 2025) are as under:

<b>Event</b>	<b>No. of train trips</b>	<b>No. of Passengers served</b>
Maha Kumbh-2025	17,340	4.24 cr
Durga Pooja/ Deepawali / Chhath, 2024	7,990	1.1 cr
Summer vacation, 2024	12,919	1.8 cr
Holi, 2024	604	8.6 lakh

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