

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3950**  
**ANSWERED ON 04.04.2025**

**GROWING DEMAND OF RAILWAY PASSENGERS IN VARIOUS SECTORS**

3950 SHRI ABDUL WAHAB:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details and number of reserved passengers travelled in various classes and sector in Indian railways in the last five years;
- (b) the details of different sectors that have the highest demand in passenger travel;
- (c) the passenger demand vis-a-vis seat proportion in various high demand sectors in Indian railways;
- (d) the list of highest fifteen sectors which have the most waiting list for passengers in various classes in the last five years, year-wise; and
- (e) the details of action taken by Government to resolve the problem of growing demand for railway passengers in various sectors?

**ANSWER**

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (e) Total number of passengers travelled in various classes in the last five years, i.e. 2020-21 to 2024-25 (till Feb) is 2,458 cr. which includes reserved passengers. 2020-21 and 2021-22 were COVID years.

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.

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 composition catering to different segments of passengers. Further, in its consistent effort to augment its carrying capacity, IR introduces new services, extends and increases the frequencies and also augments the loads of existing services.

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

Further, to provide additional accommodation to travelling passengers, IR also operates Special train services during festivals, holidays, etc. to cater to additional demand.

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</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

Further, schemes like Alternate Train Accommodation Scheme (ATAS) known as ‘VIKALP’ and Up-gradation scheme have been introduced to provide confirmed accommodation to waitlisted passengers and also to ensure optimal utilization of available accommodation.

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 12 Sleeper Class Coaches and 8 General Class coaches.

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>

Details of share of passenger seats during the period 2019-20 to 2023-24 is as below:

<b>Class</b>	<b>Avg %share of total seats during 2019-20 to 2023-24</b>
General and Non-AC Sleeper	~ 82%
AC Coaches	~ 18%

Further, 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.

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