

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.599**  
**ANSWERED ON 07.02.2025**

**UPGRADATION OF COUPLING SYSTEM**

599 SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures being taken to ensure the safety and efficiency of the existing coupling systems so far;
- (b) whether Government have any plans to upgrade the existing coupling systems in Indian Railways to automatic coupling systems across all trains;
- (c) if so, the timeline for implementing such upgrades and the estimated cost of upgrading the entire network to automatic coupling systems;
- (d) whether Government has consulted with industry experts and railway unions regarding this upgradation; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (e): Detailed maintenance and safety protocols are in place for each kind of coupling system in Indian Railways. Further, upgradation and modification of rolling stock to improve safety, amenities etc., is a continuous process.

ICF coaches, designed and developed during 1960s, were provided with screw coupling & side buffers, which require manual coupling of coach.

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More advanced LHB coaches fitted with Centre Buffer Coupler were introduced on Indian Railways (IR) in 1999-2000, in which coupling takes place without any manual intervention. IR have taken up the replacement of ICF coaches by LHB coaches in a phased manner.

No. of LHB coaches manufactured during 2004-14 vis a vis 2014-24 is as under:

Period	LHB Coaches Manufactured
2004-14	2,337
2014-24	36,933 (nearly 16 times)

Further, advanced semi-automatic couplers have also been developed for use in Amrit Bharat and Vande Bharat Trains. These couplers also enable automatic coupling between coaches without any mutual intervention.

Besides, most of the freight stocks (Wagons) are also equipped with Centre Buffer Couplers.

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