

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2517**  
**ANSWERED ON 13.03.2026**

**OVERCROWDING IN GENERAL AND SLEEPER CLASSES**

2517 SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of frequent overcrowding in general and sleeper class coaches on several routes, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the number of trains and routes identified as overcrowded during the last five years, State-wise and year-wise;
- (c) the funds allocated and utilised for capacity enhancement and safety measures in non-premium classes during the last five years; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to increase coach capacity and manage passenger load in general and sleeper class services, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d): With a view to meet the demand of passengers travelling in unreserved coaches, Railways have significantly increased the facilities for passengers demanding general class travel. During the last financial year 2024-25 alone, 1250 general coaches have been utilised in various long-distance trains. In the current financial year (upto February, 2026), 860 Coaches have been utilised for permanent augmentation.

To cater to the travel demand of the low and middle income families, Indian Railways have also taken up manufacturing of 17,000 non-AC coaches (general/sleeper).

On IR, the percentage of non-AC coaches, is about 70% as indicated below:

**Table 1: Distribution of coaches:**

<b>Non-AC coaches (general and sleeper)</b>	~62,000	~70%
<b>AC coaches</b>	~27,000	~30%
<b>Total coaches</b>	<b>~89,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

Due to higher availability of general coaches, the number of passengers traveling in general/unreserved coaches has shown an increasing trend as shown below:

**Table 2: Passengers in general/unreserved coaches:**

Year	No. of Passengers
2020-21	99 Cr (Covid year)
2021-22	275 Cr (Covid year)
2022-23	553 Cr
2023-24	609 Cr
2024-25	651 Cr

The number of seats available for non-AC passengers has also increased. The current composition is as follows:

**Table 3: Distribution of seats:**

Non-AC seats	~ 54 lakhs	~ 78%
AC seats	~ 15 lakhs	~ 22%
Total	~ 69 lakhs	100%

Moreover, 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, thereby providing greater accommodation for the passengers using General and non-AC Sleeper Coaches.

**Amrit Bharat service:**

To provide affordable means of transportation to the low and middle income families, Indian Railways have introduced Amrit Bharat services that are fully non-AC modern trains. As on 28.02.2026, 54 services are already in operation. The present composition of Amrit Bharat consists of 11 General Class coaches, 8 Sleeper Class coaches, 01 Pantry Car and 02 Luggage cum Divyangjan coaches.

High Speed and enhanced Safety standards are the hallmarks of these trains with following enhanced features and amenities:

- Better aesthetics of seat and berths with enhanced look & feel on the lines of Vande Bharat Sleeper.
- Jerk Free Semi-Automatic Couplers.
- Improved Crashworthiness in coaches by provision of crash tube.
- Provision of CCTV system in all coaches.
- Improved designs of toilets.

- Improved design of Ladder for ease of climbing on to the berth.
- Improved LED Light fitting & Charging Sockets.
- Provision of EP assisted braking system.
- Aerosol based fire suppression system in toilets and electrical cubicles.
- USB Type-A and Type-C mobile charging sockets.
- Emergency Talk Back system for two-way communication between Passenger and Guard/Train Manager.
- Non-AC pantry with enhanced heating capacity.
- Fully sealed gangways with quick release mechanism for easy attachment and detachment.

Further, to cater to the needs of passengers desirous of availing unreserved accommodation, Indian Railways (IR) operate unreserved non-AC passenger trains/ MEMU / EMU etc. for affordable travel, which are in addition to the unreserved accommodation (coaches) available in Mail/Express services.

As on 09.03.2026, the following 54 Amrit Bharat Express services are being operated on the Indian Railways network:

SN	Train No. and Name
1	11015/11016 Lokmanya Tilak (T) - Saharsa Amrit Bharat Express
2	13697/13698 Gaya - Delhi Amrit Bharat Express
3	15293/15294 Muzaffarpur - Charlapalli Amrit Bharat Express
4	15557/15558 Darbhanga - Anand Vihar (T) Amrit Bharat Express
5	15561/15562 Darbhanga - Gontinagar Amrit Bharat Express
6	15567/15568 Bapudham Motihari - Anand Vihar (T) Amrit Bharat Express
7	22361/22362 Rajendranagar (T) - New Delhi Amrit Bharat Express
8	13433/13434 SMVT Bengaluru - Malda Town Amrit Bharat Express
9	13435/13436 Malda Town - Gontinagar Amrit Bharat Express
10	15133/15134 Chhapra - Anand Vihar (T) Amrit Bharat Express
11	14047/14048 Sitamarhi - Delhi Amrit Bharat Express
12	14627/14628 Saharsa - Chheharta Amrit Bharat Express
13	19623/19624 Madar - Darbhanga Amrit Bharat Express
14	16601/16602 Erode - Jogbani Amrit Bharat Express
15	19021/19022 Udhna - Brahmapur Amrit Bharat Express
16	15671/15672 Kamakhya - Rohtak Amrit Bharat Express

17	20609/20610 New Jalpaiguri - Tiruchchirappalli Amrit Bharat Express
18	16597/16598 SMVT Bengaluru - Alipurduar Amrit Bharat Express
19	11031/11032 Panvel - Alipurduar Amrit Bharat Express
20	16107/16108 Tambaram - Santragachi Amrit Bharat Express
21	13065/13066 Howrah - Anand Vihar (T) Amrit Bharat Express
22	22587/22588 Sealdah - Banaras Amrit Bharat Express
23	20603/20604 New Jalpaiguri - Nagercoil Amrit Bharat Express
24	15949/15950 Dibrugarh - Gomti Nagar Amrit Bharat Express
25	16121/16122 Tambaram - Thiruvananthapuram Central Amrit Bharat Express
26	16329/16330 Nagercoil - Mangaluru Amrit Bharat Express
27	17041/17042 Charlapalli - Thiruvananthapuram North Amrit Bharat Express

## SPECIAL TRAINS

IR also operates Special train services during festivals, holidays, etc. to cater to the extra needs of passengers and supplement the accommodation available by regular services.

Accordingly, the number of Special trains operated across the Indian Railways network, to facilitate the passengers during Summer/winter vacations and festivals are as below:

Year	No. of trips
2023-24	~40,500
2024-25	~85,400
2025-26(upto Jan, 2026)	~70350

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