

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3927**  
**ANSWERED ON 27.03.2026**

**REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF COACHES IN TRAINS**

3927 DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for the continuous, systematic reduction in the number of sleeper and unreserved coaches in long-distance express trains;
- (b) whether this has led to severe, inhumane overcrowding, forcing ticketless travel and jeopardizing passenger safety;
- (c) the details of the massive decline in affordable travel options for the working class and migrant labourers;
- (d) the failure to operate an adequate number of special trains during peak festival seasons to clear the massive rush; and
- (e) the steps taken to immediately restore the ratio of non-AC coaches in all regular express trains?

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) to (e) General and Sleeper class coaches**

It is wrong to say that general and sleeper coaches are being reduced. On the contrary, more general and sleeper coaches are being added. With a view to meet the demand of passengers travelling in unreserved coaches, Indian Railways (IR) 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 to have at least 4 general class coaches. 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 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>

**Table 2: 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.

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.

**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. 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.

As on 15.03.2026, the following 30 pairs Amrit Bharat Express services are being operated on the Indian Railways network:

<b>SN</b>	<b>Train No. and Name</b>
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
28	16619/16620 Podanur-Dhanbad Amrit Bharat Express
29	16357/16358 Nagercoil-Charlapalli Amrit Bharat Express
30	15673/15674 Charlapalli - Kamakhya 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, festivals like Holi, Durga Puja, Diwali, Chhath, Christmas, Sabrimala, Id-ul-fitr etc. are as below:

Year	No. of trips
2023-24	~40,500
2024-25	~85,400
2025-26(upto Feb, 2026)	~74,800

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