

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 751
ANSWERED ON 24.07.2026

INFREQUENT WASHING OF BLANKETS AND HYGIENE DEFICITS IN RAILWAY LINEN

751 SHRI CHANDRAKANT DAMODAR HANDORE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the health and sanitary rationale behind washing woollen blankets only once a month while bedsheets are laundered after every single journey;
- (b) the status of mechanized and BOOT laundries currently utilizing automated AI-camera stain detection technology and Whito-meters to audit linen cleanliness, zone-wise;
- (c) the specific reduction made in the statutory codal life of linen items to ensure the faster phasing out of torn, unhygienic, or coarse bedding; and
- (d) the policy directives issued to mandate that the "extra bedsheets" in bedroll kits is strictly utilized as a sanitary quilt cover to protect passengers from unwashed blankets?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d) Indian Railways (IR) provides clean and hygienic linen to passengers travelling in AC classes in each trip.

Each bedroll packet contains two bed sheets, one pillow cover and a hand towel. One bed sheet is intended for keeping it on sleeper seat while the additional bed sheet provided in the standard bedroll kit is intended as a covering layer under blanket so that blanket is not in direct touch with the body of passenger. This blanket cover sheet is washed after single use.

As a pilot initiative to enhance passenger experience, blanket covers are being provided to all AC class passengers in trains operated by North Western Railway and in newly launched Vande Bharat Sleeper Train operating between Kamakhya and Howrah. This initiative has been widely appreciated by the passengers.

Whito-Meters are used in all mechanised laundries to check the effectiveness of cleaning of linen. CCTV cameras have been installed across laundries over IR to monitor laundry operations.

Indian Railways has also initiated the pilot project of using automated AI-camera stain detection technology in laundries at Pune Division, Central Railway and Jaipur & Jodhpur division, North Western Railway for ascertaining the quality of washed linen.

The Codal life of various linen items is prescribed under the extant Railway rules and is reviewed periodically based on usage, condition and serviceability. Linen items found unserviceable are withdrawn and replaced in accordance with the prescribed norms. The prescribed service life of various constituents of the linen kit is as under:

S. No.	Item	Codal Life
1	Bed sheet	(a) 12 months for Handloom linen (b) 24 months for Polyvastra supplied by KVIC
2	Pillow cover	9 months
3	Face Towel	9 months
4	Pillow	24 months
5	Woollen Blanket	24 months
