

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3757
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.08.2017**

IMPROVING FACILITIES IN RAILWAYS

†3757. SHRIMATI KAMLA DEVI PAATLE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the standard of facilities available at Railway stations across the country particularly in small cities is satisfactory;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to improve the existing passenger facilities at Railway stations in the country;**
- (d) if so, the major steps taken by the Government in Chhattisgarh and particularly in Bilaspur zone of Chhattisgarh during the last three years and the current year; and**
- (e) the mechanism available for monitoring and inspection of availability and maintenance of facilities at various Railway stations in the country?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3757 BY SHRIMATI KAMLA DEVI PAATLE TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 09.08.2017 REGARDING IMPROVING FACILITIES IN RAILWAYS

(a) & (b): Improvement to Passenger amenities on Indian Railways (IR) is a continuous process. Present day passengers expect visible and qualitative improvement in public utilities and amenities provided at the Stations. With a view to meeting the expectations of the passengers, Indian Railways is making all out effort to provide improved facilities at the stations including those located in small cities. Indian Railways has more than 8000 Stations. It has always been the endeavour of the Railways to provide adequate amenities to the passengers at the stations. Certain amenities are provided at the time of construction of new stations based on anticipated volume of traffic. Amenities are further augmented from time to time with growth in passenger traffic handled at stations, based on the felt need, expectations of the travelling public and availability of funds.

In the recent past Indian Railways have taken various steps to improve the services and facilitate the passengers, some of which are given below.

At stations:

- i. Lifts and Escalators at the stations for facilitating movement across platforms.**
- ii. Battery Operated Vehicles for carrying passengers before/after the train journey, especially senior citizens and persons with disabilities.**
- iii. Yatri Mitra Sewa for passengers requiring wheel-chair assistance.**
- iv. Well appointed Retiring Rooms, Waiting Halls and Executive Lounges to relax for passengers during transit.**
- v. Wi-fi facility at 127 important stations on IR.**

In Reservations and travel:

- i. Introduction of the Alternate Train Accommodation Scheme known as 'VIKALP' to give option to waitlisted passengers to shift to alternate train having vacant accommodation.**
- ii. Provision of facility to physically handicapped persons to book reserved tickets online.**
- iii. Introduction of paperless unreserved ticket booking through mobile phone.**
- iv. Automatic refund of confirmed/ Reservation Against Cancellation (RAC)/e-tickets on cancellation of trains.**
- v. Enhancement of Senior Citizen Quota as well as quota earmarked for physically handicapped persons.**
- vi. Making provision in the system for automatic preparation of reservation charts at least four hours before the scheduled departure of train.**
- vii. Provision of facility to book available accommodation after preparation of first reservation chart through internet as well as across any computerized Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counter upto preparation of second reservation chart.**
- viii. Acceptance of all International Credit/Debit cards for booking of e-tickets through Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) website.**
- ix. The passengers having confirmed/RAC/Waitlisted PRS counter tickets may cancel the same through IRCTC website (www.irctc.co.in) or through 139 within the prescribed time limit and the refund amount maybe collected across PRS counter on surrendering the original ticket.**
- x. In order to facilitate cancellation of PRS counter tickets at relatively smaller stations, one of the Unreserved Ticketing System(UTS) cum PRS counters (wherever PRS booking facility is available) has been earmarked for granting refund beyond the working hours of PRS counters/Current counters. This facility is available in respect of PRS**

counter tickets for those trains whose scheduled departure time is within the next 24 hours.

- xi. Establishment of Yatri Ticket Suvidha Kendras for issuing of tickets through public private partnership for establishment and operation of computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS)-cum Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) terminals.**
- xii. Facility for booking unreserved ticket including platforms tickets and Season Tickets through mobile phone in the 6 suburban sections of IR in Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Secunderabad and in Delhi – Palwal and Delhi-Ghaziabad sections of Northern Railway**
- xiii. Commencement of concierge services with facility for online booking of wheelchairs through IRCTC website at New Delhi and 23 other stations.**
- xiv. Provision of Automatic Ticket Vending Machines to facilitate purchase of unreserved journey tickets.**
- xv. Extension of e-ticketing facility to foreign debit/credit cards for foreign tourists and NRIs.**
- xvi. Commissioning of online booking of retiring room at over 488 Railway stations.**

(c) & (d): Modernisation/ upgradation of passenger amenities at railway stations in Indian Railways is a continuous and on-going process. At present, upgradation of station is being undertaken under Adarsh Station scheme. 201 stations have been identified for development under Adarsh Station Scheme of which 8 stations are in South East Central Railway, including 5 stations in the State of Chhattisgarh.

(e): Regular inspections are conducted by Officers, Service Improvement Group (SIG), Passenger Amenities Committee (PAC) & Passenger Services Committee (PSC) to monitor the availability and maintenance of passenger facilities at stations and remedial measures are taken as and when deficiencies are noted.