

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1997
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.07.2019**

INCREASE IN TRAINS AND COACHES

†1997. SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARSWATI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a huge waiting list in trains running in the country and a situation of unavailability of tickets is on the rise;**
- (b) if so, whether the Government is making efforts to solve the said problem;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether the Government is considering to increase the number of trains or coaches to solve the said problem;**
- (e) if so, the details thereof;**
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (g) whether the Government is considering to increase the number of tatkal coaches in case of long waiting list; and**
- (h) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1997 BY SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARSWATI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 03.07.2019 REGARDING INCREASE IN TRAINS AND COACHES

(a) to (f): In the computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS), confirmed berths/seats are allotted on first come first served basis till the availability and thereafter Reservation Against Cancellation (RAC)/Waiting List tickets are issued. The status of RAC/Waiting List tickets get automatically updated against the cancellation of confirmed berths/seats and also against release of unutilised reservation quotas. Further, on Indian Railways, demand is not uniform. It varies during lean and peak periods and this lean and peak period is also not uniform for all parts of the country. Moreover, trains running on popular and convenient timings with lesser stoppages and running time are generally well patronized and also experience waiting list almost throughout the year. However, other trains not having these features are chosen by passengers for travel only as a second alternative and are, therefore, not fully patronized.

The details of approximate number of waiting list passengers from the financial year 2017-18 onwards are as under:-

(Figures in Crores)

Financial Year	Total No. of waiting list passengers remained Waiting List after preparation of reservation charts
2017-18	2.84
2018-19	3.02
2019-20(Till May)	0.67

Waiting list of trains is monitored on regular basis and to cater to additional rush during peak periods special trains are run and load of existing trains are augmented subject to operational feasibility. Accordingly, during the year 2018-19, 106 pairs of new train services have been introduced and 487 coaches have been utilized for permanent augmentation. Further, to cater to the rush of passengers during peak season, summer, vacation, festival etc., 34237 special train trips have been operated and 72618 coaches have been attached on temporary basis, during 2018-19.

Further, with a view to providing confirmed accommodation to waiting list passengers and to ensure optimal utilisation of available accommodation, a scheme known as Alternate Train Accommodation (ATAS) known as “VIKALP” has been introduced to cover all types of trains on all sectors. The scheme aims at providing waiting list passengers accommodation in alternate train having vacant accommodation. For this facility, waiting list passenger has to give an option at the time of booking of ticket & passengers with waiting list status at the time of preparation of first reservation charts are shifted to other trains, subject to availability of vacant accommodation.

(g) & (h): There is no concept of Tatkal coach. Power for earmarking of Tatkal accommodation in different classes has been delegated to Zonal Railways who decide the extent of Tatkal accommodation to be earmarked in the trains keeping in view the utilization pattern in that class during the previous financial year as well as availability of accommodation. The accommodation so earmarked, however, in no case should exceed the limit of 30% of the total accommodation in that train.