

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 84  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2023**

**REDUCTION OF FARES IN AC AND EXECUTIVE CLASSES**

**†\*84. SHRI RAKESH SINGH:  
SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B.:**

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Railways has slashed the ticket fare for AC Chair Car and Executive classes for trains, including Vande Bharat by a maximum of 25%;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether it is also true that the Railways is considering to introduce similar fare cut in other classes such as Sleeper etc. and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether it is also true that sleeper or second-seating passengers always outnumber air-conditioned coach passengers and if so, the details in this regard;**
- (e) whether it is a fact that the reduction in fare of AC Chair Car and Executive Classes was made because of very low occupancy in Vande Bharat trains on most of the routes; and**
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the average occupancy rate of passengers in all Vande Bharat trains as of now?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND  
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

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

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 84 BY SHRI RAKESH SINGH AND SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B.TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 26.07.2023 REGARDING REDUCTION OF FARES IN AC AND EXECUTIVE CLASSES**

**(a) to (f): Zonal Railways had been delegated power to introduce discounts up to a maximum of 25% of basic fare in AC chair car and Executive class in order to optimize utilization of accommodation (vide commercial circular no . 40 of 2019, dated 27.8.2019). This authorized zonal railways to offer competitive fares over certain segments after analyzing the travel trends for all competitive modes in the region and also estimating the future occupancy potential. The same provisions were extended with some minor modifications (vide commercial circular no. 11 of 2023, dated 8.7.2023). Further, fare rationalization is a continuous process to optimize utilization of travel accommodation in trains.**

**Indian Railways always strives to provide affordable services to all strata of society. The number of Non-AC (Sleeper & general) coaches and AC coaches as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 is as under:**

<b>Type of coaches</b>	<b>Number of coaches</b>	<b>Percentage of total passenger coaches</b>
<b>Non- AC coaches</b>	<b>41,917</b>	<b>67%</b>
<b>AC coaches</b>	<b>20,287</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Total Passenger coaches</b>	<b>62,204</b>	<b>----</b>

**During current financial year, 2023-24 (up to June 2023), the overall utilization of Vande Bharat trains has been 99.60%.**

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