Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has any proposal to upgrade its basic infrastructure for providing better facilities to passengers especially children and senior citizens; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(ANSWER)

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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(a) and (b) Ministry of Railways has recently launched ‘Amrit Bharat Station Scheme’ for development of Railway stations on Indian Railways. This scheme envisages development of stations on a continuous basis with a long-term approach. It involves preparation of Master Plans and their implementation in phases to improve the amenities at the stations like improvement of station access, circulating areas, waiting halls, toilets, lift/escalators as necessary, cleanliness, free Wi-Fi, kiosks for local products through schemes like ‘One Station One Product’, better passenger information systems, Executive Lounges, nominated spaces for business meetings, landscaping etc., keeping in view the necessity at each station.

The scheme also envisages improvement of building, integrating the station with both sides of the city, multimodal integration, amenities for Divyangjans and senior citizens, sustainable and environment friendly solutions, provision of ballastless tracks, ‘Roof Plazas’ as per necessity, phasing and feasibility and creation of city centres at the station in the long term.

So far 1309 Railway Stations have been identified under this scheme over Indian Railways.

Provision of enhanced passenger amenities in train coaches is a continual endeavor of Indian Railways. Some of the steps being taken
by Indian Railways (IR) to make train journey safer and comfortable for passengers are given below:

(i). With a view to provide safer and more comfortable journey to the travelling passengers, Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches are being inducted in IR in a phased manner.

(ii). Trains operating with conventional ICF coaches are getting replaced by LHB coaches in a phased manner. Around 1241 rakes are running with LHB coaches (including new introduction).

(iii). All reserved/unreserved coaches are equipped with all basic amenities which includes comfortable seat, toilets, wash basin, longitudinal luggage rakes, coat hook, fan, charging points etc.

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