

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2634
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2021**

CONCESSION TO SENIOR CITIZENS

**2634. SHRI D.M. KATHIR ANAND:
SHRI PRATAPRAO PATIL CHIKHLIKAR:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government had discontinued the fare concession given to the senior citizens for train journey;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether the concession banned for the senior citizens have since been revoked;**
- (d) if not, whether the Government has any proposal to revoke the concession ban;**
- (e) the measures the Government is taking to make Railways disabled friendly;**
- (f) whether the Government has any proposal for attaching a special coach in every train for people with disabilities; and**
- (g) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2634 BY SHRI D.M. KATHIR ANAND AND SHRI PRATAPRAO PATIL CHIKHLIKAR TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 04.08.2021 REGARDING CONCESSION TO SENIOR CITIZENS

(a) to (d): In view of Pandemic & Covid protocol, concession to all categories of passengers (except 4 categories of Divyangjan, 11 categories of Patients and Students) have been withdrawn from 20.03.2020 till further advice. At present, there is no proposal to restore concessions.

(e). The details of important measures taken to make Railways disabled friendly are as follows:

(i). Extension of concessional online ticket booking facility to the persons with disability (Divyangjans).

(ii). Extension of reservation quota of four berths in sleeper class and two berths in 3AC in all trains running on non-suburban sections for Divyangjans.

(iii). Automatic allotment of lower berth to the Divyangjans subject to availability.

(iv). Allotment of available vacant lower berths available in the train to Divyangjan passengers by onboard Ticket Checking Staff on priority.

(v). Earmarking of reserved accommodation for Divyangjans in SLRD coaches attached in Garib Rath Express Trains.

(vi). Earmarking of reservation counters at various Passenger Reservation System(PRS) centres for dealing with the reservation requisitions received from Divyangjans, Senior Citizens, Ex. MPs, MLAs, accredited journalists and freedom fighters, based on demand and availability.

(vii). Provision of Wheel Chair for the use of Divyangjan, Old aged Poor people, etc. at Railway stations.

(viii). Provision of 'Yatri Mitra Sewa' at major stations for enabling passengers to book wheel chairs services cum porter services.

(ix). Booking of e-wheelchairs online through IRCTC portal www.irctc.co.in. The facility is presently, available at 22 stations.

(x). Provision of Battery Operated Vehicles (BOVs) at some important stations for Divyangjans, Senior Citizens etc..

Indian Railways is committed to make its railways stations and trains accessible for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) as part of "Sugamya Bharat Mission" or Accessible India Campaign of Government of India. Improvement/ augmentation of amenities at Railway stations, including those for differently abled passengers is a continuous process.

(f) & (g): To cater to the needs of Divyagjan Passengers, almost all the Mail/ Express trains running with Integral Coach Factory (ICF) design coaches including Garib Rath trains, have been provided with a specially designed Divyangjan friendly cabin in at least one coach viz. SLRD-Second class cum luggage cum Guard van with Divyangjan friendly facilities. These Divyangjan coaches are, however, not available in special type of trains like Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Jan Shatabdi, AC Special, Duronto trains etc.

Further, Indian Railways, for enhancing safety of passengers and providing better traveling experience, has taken up proliferation of LHB (Linke Hofmann Busch) coaches and accordingly trains running with Integral Coach Factory (ICF) design coaches are being converted

into LHB coaches in a phase-wise manner. Owing to non-availability of Divyangjan friendly coaches, in the initial stage of the conversion plan, Divyangjan friendly coaches could not be attached in the trains running with LHB coaches. However, such coaches have now become available and are being attached in a phased manner based on operational feasibility and availability of such coaches.
