

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1716  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2022**

**UPGRADATION OF SERVICES/FACILITIES**

**1716. SHRI HIBI EDEN:**

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

**(a) the details of new initiatives which are being taken in the matter of new trains and upgradation of services and facilities;**

**(b) the details and reasons behind the Government's decision to allow the private sector to run 151 trains in 109 pairs of routes;**

**(c) whether the Government is aware that as a result of private participation, two types of fares as well as trains may come into existence and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and**

**(d) whether the Government is trying to make travelling costlier for making privatisation easier and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

**(a) Indian Railways(IR) for better travelling experience of passengers have undertaken the following initiatives:-**

**(i) Introduction of State-of the-art Train-set Vande Bharat services, which have ultra modern features like quick acceleration, on board infotainment and Global Positioning System (GPS) based passenger information system, automatic sliding doors, retractable footsteps and Zero discharge vacuum bio toilets etc. Presently, 02 pairs of Vande**

**Bharat Express viz. New Delhi-Varanasi and New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra are operational. Further, in the Union Budget, 2022-23, announcement for 400 new generation Vande Bharat trains has been made.**

**(ii) Premium train services like Tejas, Humsafar, Antyodaya, Utkrisht Double Decker Air conditioned Yatri (UDAY), Mahamana and coaches like Deen Dayalu and Anubhuti, which have upgraded interiors/exterior and improved passenger amenities, have been introduced in service in various train services over IR.**

**(iii) Proliferation of Linke Hofman Busch (LHB) coaches in place of conventional Integral Coach Factory (ICF) type coaches for improved safety and comfortable journey to the travelling passengers.**

**(iv) Induction of Vistadome coaches which provide panoramic view, through wider body side windows as well as through transparent sections in the roof, thereby enabling the passengers to enjoy the scenic beauty of the places through which they travel. Recently, Vistadome coaches on LHB platform have also been introduced.**

**Moreover, augmentation/improvement of passenger amenities on Indian Railways is also a continuous and on-going process. Initiatives in this regard taken by Indian Railways at railway stations are indicated below:**

**(i) At the time of construction of station, Minimum Essential Amenities (MEA) is provided as per norms based on the category of station. Recommended and desirable amenities are further escalated from time to time with growth in passenger traffic at stations, based on needs and expectations of the travelling public and availability of funds. However, with a view to meet the expectations of the rail users, Indian Railways is making all out efforts to provide improved amenities/facilities at all railway stations and works in this regard are undertaken depending upon**

**volume of the passenger traffic and inter-se priority subject to availability of funds.**

**(ii) Recently, Ministry of Railways has launched a scheme of major up-gradation of railway stations for redevelopment. So far 52 stations have been identified for redevelopment under this scheme. The facilities envisaged in this scheme includes provision of roof plaza/concourse wherever feasible where passengers and other users can wait comfortably and enjoy superior and well designed amenities like lounges, recreation areas, waiting areas, seating arrangement, shopping areas, restaurants/cafeterias, tapped potable drinking water points, restrooms, WiFi, ATMs, medical facilities etc., integration with both sides of the city as far as possible along with segregation of Arrival and Departure, lift/escalators/travelators for a comfortable movement, drop off, pick up & parking facilities for passengers.**

**(b) to (d) At present, there is no proposal for operation of regular passenger trains by private operators.**

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