

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2611
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2024**

OLD AND DIRTY RAILWAY COACHES

2611 DR. K SUDHAKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has observed that a large number of trains still run with old unclean coaches;**
- (b) if so, the steps taken to modernize the railway coaches;**
- (c) the steps and measures taken/being taken to increase women safety in trains along with details thereof;**
- (d) whether adequate railway personnel are deployed for ensuring women's safety, if so, the details thereof;**
- (e) whether any system is in place for farmers to transport his agricultural produce through trains for long distances without losing the shelf value of the produce, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (f) the steps taken to ensure that trains and railway stations are more accessible to differently abled?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2611 BY DR. K SUDHAKAR TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 07.08.2024 REGARDING OLD AND DIRTY RAILWAY COACHES

(a) and (b): Replacement/repair of coaches is a continuous process and is carried out based on condition/completing codal life etc.

Indian Railways has proliferated technologically superior LHB coaches with better riding, improved aesthetics and features like Lightweight design, Anti climbing arrangement, Air suspension (Secondary) with failure indication system, less corrosive shell etc., as compared to the conventional ICF coaches.

Production of LHB coaches during 2014-24 vis a vis 2004-14 is as under:

Period	LHB coaches manufactured
2004-14	2,337 nos.
2014-24	36,933 nos. (more than 15 times)

Further, Indian Railways has also introduced Vande Bharat & Amrit trains which have enhanced safety features and modern passenger amenities.

Cleanliness is a continuous process and Indian Railways make every endeavour to keep trains in properly maintained and clean condition. Mechanized cleaning of coaches including toilets of trains is done at both ends. On Board Housekeeping Service (OBHS) is provided in long distance trains for cleaning of coach toilets, doorways, aisles and passenger compartments during the run of the trains.

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Besides, fitment of Bio-Toilets in all passenger carrying mainline coaches has been done to eliminate direct discharge of human waste from trains. Provision of Bio-toilets during 2014-24 vis a vis 2004-14 is as under:

Period	Provision of Bio toilets in coaches
2004-14	9,587 nos.
2014-24	3,10,238 nos. (More than 32 times)

(c) and (d): Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and, therefore, State Governments are responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and maintenance of law and order on Railways through their law enforcement agencies viz. Government Railway Police (GRP)/District Police. Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP/District Police to provide better protection and security to railway property, passenger area and passengers and for matters connected therewith. Following steps are being taken by the Railways in coordination with GRP/Local Police for safety and security of passengers including women passengers in trains:-

- On vulnerable and identified routes/sections, trains are escorted by Railway Protection Force in addition to trains escorted by Government Railway Police of different States daily.**
- Under 'Meri Saheli initiative, focused attention has been provided for safety and security of woman passengers travelling alone by**

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trains for their entire journey i.e. from originating station to destination station.

- **Drives are conducted against entry of male passengers into the compartments reserved for ladies.**
- **For immediate assistance, passengers can make complaint on Rail Madad Portal directly or through Helpline Number 139 (integrated with Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) No.112)**
- **Surveillance is kept through CCTV cameras provided in a no. of coaches and at railway stations for enhanced security of passengers.**
- **Railways are in regular touch with passengers through various social media platforms like Twitter & Facebook etc. to enhance security of passengers and to address their security concerns.**
- **State Level Security Committee of Railways (SLSCR) have been constituted for all State/Union Territories under the Chairmanship of respective Director General of Police/Commissioner of States/Union Territories for regular monitoring and review of security arrangements of the Railways.**

The present strength of women personnel in RPF is highest amongst the CAPFs in India. These women RPF personnel have been specially trained to ensure safety, to provide assistance to female passengers. However, the deployment of RPF staff including women RPF personnel in trains is decided based on the vulnerability of the concerned trains, timing, location of the area, threat perception of the hinterland, analysis of past crime data among others. The deployment of RPF staff

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is assessed regularly and as per existing strength, optimum deployment is made in trains for prevention of crime in Railways in coordination with GRP. Therefore, the deployment of RPF personnel is dynamic and keeps changing from time to time.

(e): All passenger/mail express trains have brake vans (SLR) which are available for loading of parcels including perishables. Besides, on the basis of demand and feasibility, railways also attach indented parcel vans, parcel vans (VPs) on long term basis (lease) as well as short term basis in a number of trains for carriage of parcel including perishables. Moreover, power has been delegated to Zonal Railways to lower the minimum composition of parcel express for transportation of fruits and vegetables. Also, 50% concession is granted in freight to orange, mango and banana traffic when transported in BCN/BCNA/BCX rakes.

(f): Indian Railways has been providing a separate compartment earmarked for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) in last vehicle LSLRD/SLRD (Second class cum Luggage cum Guard Van & Disabled Friendly Compartment) marshaled in almost all Mail/Express trains. These coaches have wider entrance doors, wider berths, wider compartments, larger lavatory with wider doors, wheel chair parking area, etc. Inside the toilets, additional grab rails on the side walls for support and wash basin and mirror at a suitable height are also available.

Further, Indian Railways is committed to make its railway stations

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accessible for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) as part of "Sugamya Bharat Mission" or Accessible India Campaign of Government of India. The guidelines for accessibility of Indian Railways stations have been notified in the official Gazette of India. These guidelines include provisions of Divyangjan related facilities such as entrance ramps, accessible parking, low height ticket counter/help booths, toilets, drinking water booth, sub-ways/foot over bridges with ramps/lifts, standard signages including Braille signages and tactile pathways for visual impairment etc.

Improvement/augmentation of amenities at Railway stations, including those for Divyangjan is a continuous process.
