

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2680
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2024**

AFFORDABLE TRAVEL OPTION FOR ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED PASSENGERS

2680. MS. PRANITI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is taking measures to ensure affordable travel options for economically disadvantaged passengers in light of the reduction of sleeper coaches and the increase in AC coaches;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including specific steps being taken to ensure affordability for these passengers and if not, the reasons therefor; and**
- (c) the specific data on the number of sleeper and AC coaches in trains passing through Solapur for the years 2020 and 2024, including any changes in the number of AC coaches?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

(a) to (c) Indian Railways (IR), operates various types of regular time-tabled trains e.g. suburban, short distance passenger trains, long distance /Mail / Express/ Superfast trains with different composition catering to different segments of passengers and fare is charged as per categorisation of train services.

The extant policy regarding composition of Mail/Express trains, provide for 12 (Twelve) General class & Sleeper class non- AC coaches and 08 (eight) AC-Coaches, in a train of 22 coaches, to provide greater accommodation for the passengers using General and non-AC Sleeper Coaches.

With a view to augment the capacity for passengers travelling in unreserved coaches, more than 600 General Class coaches have been attached, in the Mail/Express trains operating with LHB coaches during the current financial year. Of the total number of Coaches being presently utilized for running of train services, two-third are non-AC, and one-third are AC variants.

Further, IR have introduced Amrit Bharat services, which have modern State-of the Art technology and are equipped with advanced features like Semi-Permanent couplers for jerk free travel, horizontal sliding windows, foldable snack table and bottle holders, mobile holders etc. These services, which are fully non-AC trains, presently comprising 12 Sleeper Class Coaches and 8 General Class coaches, are providing high quality services to the passengers.

Keeping in view increased demand, IR has planned to manufacture 10,000 non-AC Coaches including General Class and Sleeper Class Coaches. Specific data on the number of coaches passing through any station including Solapur is not maintained.
