

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2735
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2024**

RESERVATION OF LOWER BERTH FOR DISABLED AND SENIOR CITIZENS

†2735. SHRI UTKARSH VERMA MADHUR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to restore the subsidy on the travel tickets of the persons with disabilities and senior citizens as earlier;**
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether the Government is seriously considering to reserve the lower birth for the persons with disabilities and senior citizens;**
- (d) the details of the States where Bullet Train's are proposed to be introduced;**
- (e) whether the Government contemplates to launch Bullet Train in Uttar Pradesh too in future; and**
- (f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be run?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) and (b): Indian Railways strives to provide affordable services to all strata of the society and gave subsidy of ₹56,993 cr on passenger

tickets in 2022-23. This amounts to concession of 46% on an average, to every person, travelling on Railways. In other words for easier understanding, if the cost of providing service is ₹100, then the price of ticket is ₹54 only. This subsidy is continuing for all passengers. Further, concessions beyond this subsidy amount are continuing for many categories like 4 categories of Persons with disabilities (Divyangjans), 11 categories of patients and 8 categories of students.

(c): The following facilities have been extended to Persons with Disabilities and Senior citizens:

- i. Allotment of lower berths to Senior Citizens, Female passengers of 45 years and above automatically, even if no choice is given, subject to availability.**
- ii. Earmarking of a combined quota of six to seven lower berths per coach in Sleeper class, four to five lower berths per coach each in Air Conditioned 3 tier (3AC) and three to four lower berths per coach in Air Conditioned 2 tier (2AC) classes (depending on the number of coaches of that class in the train) for senior citizens, female passengers 45 years of age and above and pregnant women.**
- iii. Earmarking of reservation quota of four berths in sleeper class (including two lower berths) and four berths in 3AC/3E (including two lower berths) and four seats in reserved second sitting (2S)/air-conditioned Chair Car (CC) in all mail/express trains including Rajdhani/Shatabdi type trains irrespective of the fact that whether concession facilities is available or not to Persons with Disabilities.**

iv. Allotment of lower berths falling vacant in the train to senior citizens, Persons with Disabilities or pregnant women (who have been allotted middle/upper berth) on priority.

(d) to (f): Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) Project is the only sanctioned project of High Speed Rail in India which is under execution with technical and financial assistance from Government of Japan.
