

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3704
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2024**

DEPLORABLE CONDITION OF THE SABARI EXPRESS

3704 SHRI K SUDHAKARAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representation/request from a Hon'ble Member of Parliament regarding the deplorable condition of the Sabari Express (17229/17230);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or proposed to be taken to address issues related to (i) disrepair of washrooms, electrical fittings, and passenger seats; and (ii) the infestation of insects and rodents;

(c) whether the Government is aware that the journey on this train goes beyond the distance of 1,500 km and takes approximately 29 hours, significantly impacting passengers' comfort;

(d) if so, whether the Government has considered the acute demand for increased train services on this route, especially during the Sabarimala pilgrimage season; and

(e) the measures proposed to improve the condition of the Sabari Express coaches and to increase train frequency during peak passenger traffic periods?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (e) : Representations/requests, both formal and informal, are received from State Governments, Ministries of Central Government, Elected Representatives, Consultative Committees

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etc. by Railways at various levels including Railway Board, Zonal Railways, Division office etc. As receipt of such representations/requests is a continuous and dynamic process, centralized compendium of such representations/requests is not maintained. However, the representation/request etc. are dealt as per laid down procedure/guidelines.

Replacement/repair of coaches is a continuous process by Indian Railways and is carried out based on condition/completion of 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. (nearly 16 times)

Accordingly, all ICF rakes are planned to be replaced with LHB rakes in phases. So far, more than 1245 ICF rakes have been replaced with LHB coaches. Further, Indian Railways has also

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introduced Vande Bharat & Amrit Bharat trains with further enhanced safety features and passenger amenities.

Besides, regular actions taken to ensure and improve proper maintenance quality and cleaning of coaches including passenger trains are as follows:

- Maintenance of coaches is carried at Coaching Depots/Terminals in line with laid-out detailed guidelines and prescribed standards. All the trains are also properly cleaned, watered during these activities.**
- To facilitate the upkeep of the coaches during run On Board Housekeeping Service (OBHS) and Clean Train Stations (CTS) services are also provided for en-route attention.**
- These are regularly monitored through nominated officials in Division/Depots & Workshop across Zonal Railways.**

Further, 17229/17230 Thiruvananthapuram-Secunderabad Sabari Express is a daily service, catering to the needs of passengers of Thiruvananthapuram Secunderabad sector. This train is maintained as per norms.

To cater to the extra rush of passengers during Sabrimala season, IR operates special train services and accordingly, 166 trips of special trains were operated during 2023-24 and more than 200 trips of special services have been notified this year.
