GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3745 TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2024

IMPROVING BASIC AMENITIES AND BETTER SERVICES IN UNRESERVED COACHES

3745 SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA: SHRI BHARAT SINGH KUSHWAH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is making any efforts to provide basic amenities and better services to the passengers travelling in the unreserved coaches of trains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has fixed any target to manufacture any special general and unreserved coaches in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the passenger capacity of the unreserved general coaches in the country;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to manufacture separate unreserved coaches for women and differently-abled persons;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) whether the Government is introducing advanced types of said coaches for better passenger experience and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (g): Indian Railways constantly endeavours to cater to the travelling needs of all cross-section of society by operating different

types of services with different composition, which includes both Non-AC and AC coaches. Of the total number of Coaches being presently utilized for running of train services, approximately two-third are non-AC, and one-third are AC variants. With a view to provide greater accommodation for the passengers using General and non-AC Sleeper Coaches, 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, thereby providing greater accommodation for the passengers using General and non-AC Sleeper Coaches.

With a view to augment the accommodation for passengers travelling in unreserved coaches, more than 900 General Class coaches have been attached, in the Mail/Express trains operating with LHB (Linke Hofmann Busch) coaches, during the current financial year.

Further, keeping in view increased demand, IR has provisioned to manufacture 10,000 non-AC Coaches including General Class and Sleeper Class Coaches.

Further, during the year 2024, 13523 trips special trains were operated to meet the extra rush of passengers during Holi and summer vacation.

To cater to the rush during Durga Pooja / Dipawali/ Chhath, 7990 trips of Special trains have also been operated during the period 1st October, 2024 to 30th November, 2024, to serve approximately 1.8 crore passengers.

Additionally, Indian Railways have introduced Amrit Bharat services, which are equipped with modern features and passenger amenities 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.

Indian Railways have already been facilitating a separate compartment earmarked for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) in last vehicle LSLRD/SLRD (Second class cum Luggage cum Guard Van & Disabled Friendly Compartment) marshalled 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.

Besides, in all Vande-Bharat trains, the driving coaches on each end have the provision of similar facilities for Divyangjan like automatic plug type wide entrance door, earmark space for parking wheel chair, larger lavatory area for complete movement of wheel chair, Braille signage, low height wash basin, western commode with handrails at suitable height etc.
