GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3833 TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2024

FACILITIES TO DIVYANGJANS AND SENIOR CITIZENS PASSENGERS UNDER AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME

†3833. DR. RAJEEV BHARADWAJ:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any measures have been taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to facilitate easy movement of Divyangjans and senior citizens passengers in the proposed redevelopment of stations under the Amrit Bharat Station scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether any action plan has been formulated by the Government to make those stations energy efficient which are proposed to be redeveloped under the said scheme, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) Indian Railways is committed to make its railway stations accessible for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjans) and passengers with reduced mobility as part of "Sugamya Bharat Mission" or

'Accessible India Campaign' of Government of India. In compliance of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, "Guidelines on accessibility of Indian Railway stations and facilities at stations for differently abled persons (Divyangjans) and passengers with reduced mobility" have been circulated and notified in the Gazette of India. The guidelines include provisions of facilities for Divyangjans and passengers with reduced mobility such as entrance ramps, accessible parking, low height ticket counters/help booths, toilets, drinking water booths, subways/foot over bridges with ramps/lifts, standard signages including Braille signages and tactile pathways for visual impairment, etc.

Ministry of Railways has launched 'Amrit Bharat Station Scheme' for development of Railway stations on Indian Railways. So far, 1337 stations have been identified under this scheme. This scheme envisages development of stations on a continuous basis with a long-term approach.

It involves preparation of Master Plans and their implementation in phases to improve the amenities at the stations like improvement of station access, circulating areas, waiting halls, toilets, lift/escalators as necessary, platform surfacing and cover over platform, cleanliness, free Wi-Fi, kiosks for local products through schemes like 'One Station One Product', better passenger information systems, Executive Lounges, nominated spaces for business meetings, landscaping, etc. keeping in view the necessity at each station.

The scheme also envisages improvement of building, integrating the station with both sides of the city, multimodal integration, and amenities for Divyangjans and passengers with reduced mobility, sustainable and environment friendly solutions, provision of ballastless tracks, etc., as per necessity, phasing and feasibility and creation of city centre at the station in the long term.

Further, provision/upgradation of various passenger amenities at stations including the amenities for Divyangjans and senior citizens is a continuous and ongoing process and works in this regard are undertaken as per requirement, subject to inter-se priority and availability of funds.
