

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. 200

TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2025

OVERCROWDING IN TRAINS

***200. SMT. KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the issue of overcrowding of trains;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by the Government to resolve the issue;**
- (c) whether the Government has decreased the number of general and sleeper coaches in major trains and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) the details regarding the number of general, sleeper and AC coaches increased/decreased in Express trains across the country during the last ten years; and**
- (e) the details regarding the number of general/sleeper/AC coaches that the Rail Coach Factory has built during the year 2024-25 so far and is planning to build during the year 2025-26?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND

ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 200 TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2025

(a) to (e): On Indian Railways, occupancy pattern of trains is not uniform throughout the year and it varies over lean and peak periods. During peak rush periods, the occupancy of the trains especially on popular routes remains full whereas during lean period and on less popular routes, there is sub optimal utilization.

Traffic pattern of the trains running on Indian Railways is monitored on regular basis and to cater to additional demand, load of existing trains are augmented, special trains are run, new trains are introduced, frequency of existing trains is increased etc. subject to operational feasibility.

In its constant endeavour to provide additional accommodation to travelling passengers, Indian Railways(IR), in addition to the various types of regular trains, also operates Special train services during festivals, holidays, etc. to cater to the extra needs of passengers.

Accordingly, 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 were operated during the period 1st October, 2024 to 30th November, 2024, to serve approximately 1.8 crore passengers.

With a view to facilitate the passengers during the recently concluded Maha Kumbh, IR operated more than 17300 trains during the period 13th January, 2025 to 28th February, 2025, which served approximately 4.24 crore passengers.

In addition to the above, the load of trains are also augmented, both on permanent and temporary basis, to generate additional accommodation for different segments of passengers.

During the year 2023-24, 872 coaches have been utilized for augmentation of train services on permanent basis while during the year 2024-25(till February, 2025), 983 coaches have been utilized for permanent augmentation.

Further, to provide greater accommodation for the passengers using General and non-AC Sleeper Coaches, the extant policy regarding composition of Mail/Express trains provides 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. Besides, 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.

Additionally, Indian Railways have introduced Amrit Bharat services, which have modern State-of the Art technology, 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.

With a view to augment the accommodation and for the benefit of passengers travelling in unreserved coaches, about 1200 General Class coaches have been attached, in the Mail/Express trains operating with LHB coaches during the current financial year. Keeping in view increased demand, IR has planned to manufacture more than 17,000 General Class/Sleeper Class (Non-AC) Coaches.

During the financial year 2024-25 (till Feb 2025), Rail Coach factories have built 6485 coaches.
