

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2142**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2025**

**OVERCROWDING IN NON-AIRCONDITIONED COACHES**

**2142. SHRI ZIA UR REHMAN:**

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government agrees to the view that the Railways needs to address overcrowding, particularly in non-airconditioned coaches on busy routes;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof including steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;**
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and**
- (d) the initiatives taken/being taken by the Government to accelerate the implementation of the Kavach Automatic Train Protection System in a structured mission mode?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

**(a) to (c): 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.**

**(d)**

- Kavach is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system. Kavach is a highly technology intensive system, which requires safety certification of highest order (SIL-4).**

- **Kavach aids the Loco Pilot in running of train within specified speed limits by automatic application of brakes in case Loco Pilot fails to do so and also helps the trains to run safely during inclement weather.**
- **The first field trials on the passenger trains were started in February 2016. Based on the experience gained and Independent Safety Assessment of the system by Independent Safety Assessor (ISA), three firms were approved in 2018-19, for supply of Kavach Ver 3.2.**
- **Kavach was adopted as National ATP system in July 2020.**
- **Implementation of Kavach System involves following Key Activities:**
  - **Installation of Station Kavach at each and every station, block section.**
  - **Installation of RFID Tags throughout the track length.**
  - **Installation of telecom Towers throughout the section.**
  - **Laying of Optical Fibre Cable along the track.**
  - **Provision of Loco Kavach on each and every Locomotive running on Indian Railways.**
- **Based on deployment of Kavach version 3.2 on 1465 RKm on south central Railway, lot of experience was gained. Using that further improvements were made. Finally, Kavach specification version 4.0 was approved by RDSO on 16.07.2024.**
- **Kavach version 4.0 covers all the major features required for the diverse railway network. This is a significant milestone in safety for Indian Railways. Within a short period, IR has developed, tested and started deploying Automatic Train Protection System.**

- **Major improvement in Version 4.0 includes increased Location Accuracy, Improved Information of Signal Aspects in bigger yard, Station to Station Kavach interface on OFC and Direct Interface to existing Electronic Interlocking System. With these improvements, Kavach Ver. 4.0. is planned for large scale deployment over Indian Railways.**
- **Progress of Key items comprising Kavach system on Indian Railways upto Feb' 2025 is as under: -**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Items</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<b>i</b>	<b>Laying of Optical Fibre Cable</b>	<b>5743 Km</b>
<b>ii</b>	<b>Installation of Telecom Towers</b>	<b>540 Nos.</b>
<b>iii</b>	<b>Provision of Kavach at Stations</b>	<b>664 Nos.</b>
<b>iv</b>	<b>Provision of Kavach in Loco</b>	<b>795 Locos</b>
<b>v</b>	<b>Installation of Track side equipment</b>	<b>3727 Rkm</b>

- **Next phase of Kavach implementation is planned as under:-**
  - **Project for equipping 10,000 Locomotives has been finalized. 69 number of loco sheds have been prepared for equipping with Kavach.**
  - **Bids for track side Works of Kavach for approximately 15,000 RKm have been invited covering all GQ, GD, HDN and identified sections**

**of Indian Railways, out of which works of 1865 RKm have been awarded.**

- **Currently, 3 OEMs are approved for supply of Kavach System. To increase capacity and scale of implementation, trials and approval of more OEMs are at different stages.**

**Specialized training programme on Kavach are being conducted at centralized training institutes of Indian Railways to impart training to all concerned officials. By now more than 20,000 technicians, operators and engineers have been trained on Kavach technology. Courses have been designed in collaboration with IRISET.**

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