

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1735  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2025**

**REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF SLEEPER CLASS COACHES IN TAMIL NADU**

**1735. DR. GANAPATHY RAJKUMAR P:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that many number of Sleeper Class (SL) coaches has been reduced in many trains running across Tamil Nadu;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with reasons for reducing SL coaches in many trains;**
- (c) whether the Government has received any representations from railway passengers' associations to add more SL coaches in these trains for the convenience of middle-class families and common people; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

**(a) to (d) Indian Railways (IR) have significantly increased the facilities for passengers demanding general/sleeper class travel. During the last financial year 2024-25 alone, 1250 general coaches have been utilised in various long-distance trains.**

**On IR, the percentage of non-AC coaches, is about 70% as indicated below:**

**Table 1: Distribution of coaches:**

<b>Coach type</b>	<b>No. of Coaches</b>	<b>Percentgage</b>
<b>Non-AC coaches (general and sleeper)</b>	<b>~57,200</b>	<b>~70%</b>
<b>AC coaches</b>	<b>~25,000</b>	<b>~30%</b>
<b>Total coaches</b>	<b>~82,200</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Due to higher availability of general coaches, the number of passengers traveling in general/ unreserved coaches has shown an increasing trend as shown below:**

**Table 2: Passengers in general/unreserved coaches:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of Passengers</b>
<b>2020-21</b>	<b>99 Cr (Covid year)</b>
<b>2021-22</b>	<b>275 Cr (Covid year)</b>
<b>2022-23</b>	<b>553 Cr</b>
<b>2023-24</b>	<b>609 Cr</b>
<b>2024-25</b>	<b>651 Cr</b>

**The number of seats available for non-AC passengers has also increased over the years. The current composition is as follows:**

**Table 3: Distribution of seats:**

<b>Seat Type</b>	<b>No. of seats</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Non-AC seats</b>	<b>~ 54 lakhs</b>	<b>~ 78%</b>
<b>AC seats</b>	<b>~ 15 lakhs</b>	<b>~ 22%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>~ 69 lakhs</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Further, as the Railway network straddles across State boundaries, trains are operated/augmented, as per network requirement, across such boundaries.**

**As on 01.04.2025, the total number of coaches held, for trains operations, by Southern Railway (which primarily serves the State of Tamil Nadu), has a holding of around 5,300 coaches for train operations, of which around 1400 coaches ( i.e. 26%) coaches are AC while 3900 (i.e.74%) coaches are non-AC coaches (General and Sleeper).**

**During 2024-25, Southern Railway has attached 167 un-reserved class coaches in 132 Mail/Express trains by replacing 138 AC coaches and 29 sleeper coaches for the convenience of common people.**

**Moreover, 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.**

**Railways have developed a fully non-AC modern train named as Amrit Bharat express. Presently, 14 Amrit Bharat services are in operation. These modern trains have advanced features like Semi-Permanent couplers for jerk free travel, horizontal sliding windows, foldable snack tables and bottle holders, mobile holders etc. These trains comprise 8 Sleeper Class coaches and 11 General Class coaches.**

**Further, to cater to the needs of passengers desirous of availing unreserved accommodation, Indian Railways (IR) operate unreserved non-AC passenger trains/ MEMU / EMU etc. for affordable travel, which are in**

**addition to the unreserved accommodation (coaches) available in Mail/Express services.**

**By introducing Amrit Bharat Express trains, manufacturing of MEMU trains, and by executing a special manufacturing programme for 17,000 non-AC general/sleeper coaches over the next 5 years, Indian Railways is committed to effectively cater to the travel demand of the low and middle income families who prefer to travel by Railways as an affordable means of transportation.**

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