

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2871  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2025**

**DELAY OF TRAINS DUE TO OPERATION OF VANDE BHARAT TRAINS**

**2871. SHRI E. TUKARAM:**

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

- (a) the details of the number of trains affected and delayed (in hours) due to the operation of Vande Bharat trains;**
- (b) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of general coaches in trains to benefit economically weaker sections and if so, the details thereof including timeline therefor;**
- (c) whether there is a plan to improve sanitation at railway stations and coaches and reduce train delays, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) whether compensation is paid to passengers in case of long delays 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 (d) On Indian Railways (IR), passenger train services, including Vande Bharat services, are operated as per charted time table and General Order of Precedence of Trains, without infringing other services and all efforts are made to run trains as per their schedule.**

**IR, have significantly increased the facilities for the benefit of economically weaker passengers who demand general/sleeper class travel. During the last financial year 2024-25 alone, 1250 general coaches have been utilised in various long-distance trains.**

**To cater to the travel demand of the low and middle income families, Indian Railways have taken up 17,000 non-AC coaches( general/sleeper) over the next 5 years.**

**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>Percentage</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>

**Given the above data, it is clear that Indian Railways is committed to the low and middle income families who prefer railways as an affordable means of transportation.**

**Amrit Bharat Express:**

**Railways have developed a fully non-AC modern train named as Amrit Bharat express. Already 14 services are in operation. The present composition of Amrit Bharat consists of 11 General Class coaches, 8 Sleeper Class coaches, 01 Pantry car and 02 Luggage cum Divyangjan coaches.**

**High Speed and enhanced Safety standards are the hallmarks of these trains with following enhanced features and amenities:**

- i. Better aesthetics of seat and berths with enhanced look & feel on the lines of Vande Bharat Sleeper.**
- ii. Jerk Free Semi-Automatic Couplers.**
- iii. Improved Crashworthiness in coaches by provision of crash tube.**
- iv. Provision of CCTV system in all coaches and Luggage room.**
- v. Improved designs of toilets.**
- vi. Improved design of Ladder for ease of climbing on to the berth.**
- vii. Improved LED Light fitting & Charging Sockets.**
- viii. Provision of EP assisted braking system.**
- ix. Aerosol based fire suppression system in toilets and electrical cubicles.**
- x. USB Type-A and Type-C mobile charging sockets.**
- xi. Emergency Talk Back system for two-way communication between Passenger and Guard/Train Manager.**
- xii. Non-AC pantry with enhanced heating capacity.**
- xiii. Fully sealed gangways with quick release mechanism for easy attachment and detachment.**

**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.**

**Standard Composition:**

**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.**

**Indian Railways make every endeavour to keep trains & stations in properly maintained and clean condition to ensure passengers comfort and a pleasant travel experience. Various measures have been taken to improve sanitation at Railway stations and coaches. Key measures include:-**

- All passenger coaches have been installed with bio-toilets so that no human waste is discharged from coaches on to the track and resulted in improved cleanliness level of platform & station like never before.**
- Mechanized Cleaning is being carried out at major stations and in trains.**
- On Board Housekeeping Services (OBHS) is provided to maintain cleanliness and hygiene in identified trains during run of the train. Currently, OBHS is provided in approximately 1,375 pairs of trains.**
- Clean Train Station (CTS) Scheme is provided at identified stations to improve the cleanliness of trains en-route by undertaking limited mechanized cleaning.**
- Regular inspections for monitoring cleanliness.**
- Feeds from CCTVS cameras installed at stations are also being utilised to monitor cleanliness activities from time to time.**

- **Systematic waste segregation, use of colour-coded bins, and scheduled garbage disposal at en-route stations are being enforced to manage onboard and station waste efficiently.**

**Regular actions are taken to ensure and improve proper maintenance quality and cleaning of coaches including passenger trains including Maintenance of coaches at Coaching Depots/Terminals in line with laid-out detailed guidelines/standards cleaning the trains with water. Besides, to facilitate the upkeep of the coaches during run On Board Housekeeping Service (OBHS) and Clean Train Stations (CTS) services are also provided for en-route attention. These are regularly monitored through nominated officials in Division/Depots & Workshop across Zonal Railways.**

**Full refund of fare is granted without deduction of cancellation or clerkage charge to all passengers holding reserved, RAC and wait listed tickets, If the journey is not undertaken due to late running of train by more than three hours of the scheduled departure of the train from station commencing journey, provided ticket is cancelled/ ticket deposit receipt (TDR) is filed as the case may be as per Railway Passengers (Cancellation of tickets and refund of fare) Rules 2015 within the prescribed time limit.**

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