

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4525  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.08.2025**

**INTERCITY TRAIN FROM LUCKNOW TO PRAYAGRAJ**

**4525. SHRI KISHORI LAL:**

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

- (a) the steps taken so far to convert Level Crossing Gate No. 104C and 109C as “Open to Road Traffic” gates on the Lucknow–Sultanpur railway route and the decision approved by the Railways;**
- (b) whether the Railways has any proposal for the operation of an intercity train from Lucknow to Prayagraj (via Raebareli, Gauriganj, Amethi and Pratapgarh);**
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (d) whether the Railways has any proposal to add new general coaches to trains running on the above said routes for the convenience of general passengers;**
- (e) if so, the details of trains that are going to add new general coaches; and**
- (f) the details of steps taken/being taken to enhance the facilities and security of passengers travelling with general sleeper reservations?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

**(a) to (f) : Level Crossing Gate No. 104C and 109C exist on Lucknow–Sultanpur-Zafrabad section. The normal position of the gate is**

**decided on the basis of classification of the LC, status of interlocking, location, total Nos. of gates connected with station and visibility etc. Feasibility for change in normal position of mentioned LCs from “closed to road traffic” to “Open to road traffic” has been taken up.**

**Further, it is also planned to take up the work of preparation of technical feasibility report/ detailed project report (TFR/DPR) for the construction of Road over Bridge/ Road under Bridge (ROB/ RUB) in lieu of these LCs. Further action depends on TFR/DPR.**

#### **Trains between Lucknow and Prayagraj:**

**Indian Railways is committed to run more trains on its network. However, introduction of new trains, increase in frequency of existing trains, extension of existing trains etc. on any route/section depends on various factors which include:**

- Capacity of that section**
- Availability of path**
- Availability of required rolling stock**
- Availability of matching infrastructure for rolling stock**
- Maintenance requirement of railway tracks and other assets**

**Considering the above factors, presently, Lucknow-Prayagraj sector is being served by 12 pairs of train services including 02 pairs having stoppage at Raebareli, Gauriganj, Amethi and Maa Belha Devi Dham Pratapgarh Junction.**

**To increase the capacity of the rail network and hence to run more trains, Indian Railways have taken up network expansion works in a big way.**

**Non-AC coaches (General & Sleepers):**

**With a view to meet the demand of passengers travelling in unreserved coaches, Railways have significantly increased the facilities for passengers demanding general 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:**

**Distribution of coaches:**

<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:**

**Passengers in general/unreserved coaches:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Nos. 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. The current composition is as follows:**

**Distribution of seats:**

<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 service:**

**To provide affordable means of transportation to the low and middle income families, Indian Railways have introduced Amrit Bharat services that are fully non-AC modern trains. As on 14th August, 2025, 16 services are already 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:**

- Better aesthetics of seat and berths with enhanced look & feel on the lines of Vande Bharat Sleeper.**
- Jerk Free Semi-Automatic Couplers.**
- Improved Crashworthiness in coaches by provision of crash tube.**
- Provision of CCTV system in all coaches and Luggage room.**

- **Improved designs of toilets.**
- **Improved design of Ladder for ease of climbing on to the berth.**
- **Improved LED Light fitting & Charging Sockets.**
- **Provision of EP assisted braking system.**
- **Aerosol based fire suppression system in toilets and electrical cubicles.**
- **USB Type-A and Type-C mobile charging sockets.**
- **Emergency Talk Back system for two-way communication between Passenger and Guard/Train Manager.**
- **Non-AC pantry with enhanced heating capacity.**
- **Fully sealed gangways with quick release mechanism for easy attachment and detachment.**

**The Design and Development of Coaches to enhance the safety and passenger experience is continuous process over Indian Railways.**

**Indian Railways has proliferated technologically superior LHB coaches with better riding, improved aesthetics and features like Lightweight design, Anti climbing arrangement, Air suspension (Secondary) with failure indication system, less corrosive shell etc.**

**Production of LHB coaches during 2014-25 vis-à-vis 2004-14 is as under:**

<b>Period</b>	<b>LHB coaches manufactured</b>
<b>2004-14</b>	<b>2,337 Nos.</b>
<b>2014-25</b>	<b>42,677 Nos. (more than 18 times)</b>

**Indian Railways has also introduced completely Non-AC Amrit Bharat trains on LHB platform with enhanced safety features and improved passenger amenities:**

- **Better aesthetics of seat and berths with enhanced look & feel on the lines of Vande Bharat Sleeper.**
- **Jerk Free Semi-Automatic couplers.**
- **Improved crashworthiness in coaches by provision of crash tube.**
- **Provision of CCTV system in all coaches and luggage room.**
- **Improved designs of toilets.**
- **Improved design of Ladder for ease of climbing on to the berth.**
- **Provision of EP assisted braking system.**
- **Aerosol based fire suppression system in toilets and electrical cubicles.**
- **USB Type-A and Type-C mobile charging sockets.**
- **Non-AC pantry car.**
- **Fully sealed gangways with quick release mechanism.**

#### **Security of passengers:**

**'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and, as such, State Governments are responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and maintaining law and order etc. on Railways through their law enforcement agencies viz. Government Railway Police (GRP)/District Police. However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP/District Police to provide better protection and security of passenger area and passengers and for matters connected therewith.**

**The following steps are taken by the Railways in coordination with GRP for safety and security of passengers in trains and at stations:-**

**1. On vulnerable and identified routes/sections, trains are escorted by Railway Protection Force in addition to trains escorted by Government Railway Police of different States daily.**

**2. For immediate assistance passengers can make complaint on Rail Madad Portal directly or through Helpline Number 139 (integrated with National Emergency No.112).**

**3. Railways are in regular touch with passengers through various social media platforms viz. twitter, facebook, etc. to enhance security of passengers and to address their security concern.**

**4. Frequent announcements are made through Public Address System to educate passengers to take precautions against theft, snatching, drugging etc.**

**5. CCTV cameras have been provided in coaches and at Railway Stations for enhanced security of passengers.**

**6. Under 'Meri Saheli initiative, focused attention has been provided for safety and security of lady passengers travelling alone by long distance trains for their entire journey i.e. from originating station to destination station.**

**7. Zonal railways have been instructed for deployment of proper combined strength of male & female RPF/RPSF personnel in train escort parties, to the extent possible.**

**8. State Level Security Committee of Railways (SLSCR) have been constituted for all State/Union Territories under the Chairmanship of respective Director General of Police/Commissioner of States/Union Territories for regular monitoring and review of security arrangements of the Railways.**

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