

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 466  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2025**

**OVERCROWDING IN PASSENGER TRAINS**

**†466. SHRI IMRAN MASOOD:**

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

- (a) the data of passengers travelling in Indian Railways since 2019, year and class-wise;**
- (b) the details of the steps taken by the Government to address the problem of overcrowding in passenger trains;**
- (c) whether the Government has reduced the number and capacity of budget-friendly passenger trains;**
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;**
- (e) whether the Government proposes to add some new coaches in the passenger trains to address the issue of overcrowding in the general coaches in the trains; and**
- (f) if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

**(a) to (f) : During last 6 years (2019-20 to 2024-25), total 3,349 Cr. Passengers travelled in Indian Railways which included 418 Cr. reserved and 2,931 Cr. unreserved class passengers (2020-21 & 2021-22 were COVID years).**

**On Indian Railways, the 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 periods 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, availability of resources etc.**

**Accordingly, during the years 2024 and 2025 around 13,500 trips of special trains each year were operated to meet the extra rush of passengers during Holi and Summer vacation. To cater to the rush during Durga Pooja/Deepawali/Chhath, 7,990 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 17,300 trains during the period 13th January, 2025 to 28th February, 2025, which served approximately 4.24 crore passengers.**

**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.**

**The percentage of non-AC coaches has significantly increased to about 70% as detailed below:**

**Table 1: 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:**

**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>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>

**Railways have developed a fully non-AC modern train named as Amrit Bharat express. Already 14 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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**Development of Amrit Bharat Express trains, manufacturing of MEMU trains, and increasing the share of general coaches clearly shows that Indian Railways is catering effectively to the demand for travel in general class.**

**Over and above the current high share of non-AC coaches (~70% of total coaches), Railways is executing a special manufacturing programme for 17,000 non-AC general/sleeper coaches over the next 5 years.**

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