

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 666
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2025**

ACCESS TO CONFIRMED TICKETS

666. SHRI ANAND BHADARIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that common people don't have access to confirmed ticket in trains except Vande Bharat;**
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether touts have become active in whole railway system over the last 2-3 years;**
- (d) if so, the number of touts identified and arrested during last three years, zone-wise; and**
- (e) the details of steps taken by the Government to make railway tickets easily available to common people of the country?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

- (a) to (e) On Indian Railways tickets can be booked online or across reservation counters on first cum first served basis. Initially confirmed tickets are issued, thereafter Reservation Against Cancellation (RAC)/Waiting list tickets are issued.**

The status of RAC/Waiting list passengers gets updated automatically against the vacant accommodation becoming available on account of cancellation of tickets booked prior to such tickets and release of unutilised quota at the time of preparation of first reservation charts.

Moreover, the demand pattern of reserved accommodation is not uniform throughout the year and it varies over lean and peak periods. The trains running on popular routes and convenient timings are generally well patronized, however, in other trains, accommodation is generally available.

Waiting list position of the trains running on Indian Railways is monitored on regular basis and in order to cater to additional demand, Indian Railways operates Special train services and augments the load of trains to generate additional accommodation.

In FY2022-23 approx. 4600 Mail/Exp, Passenger and Special trains were run on daily basis which has increased progressively to approx. 5380 in FY 2025-26 (upto May). The number of special trains have increased from 80 trains per day to almost three times, to 235 trains per day in FY 2025-26 (upto May).

Further, schemes like Alternate Train Accommodation Scheme (ATAS) known as VIKALP and Up-gradation scheme have been introduced to provide confirmed accommodation to waitlisted passengers and also to ensure optimal utilization of available accommodation.

As far as touts are concerned, instances of malpractices in ticketing by unscrupulous elements do come to notice from time to time. To curb their activities, regular joint drives are conducted by

Commercial, Vigilance and Railway Protection Force against touts. These checks are intensified during peak rush/festival periods. Touts apprehended are prosecuted as per Section 143 of Railways Act. Accordingly, during the period of 2022 to 2024, Railway Protection Force (RPF) has registered 14778 cases against touts and 16615 persons have been arrested under section 143 of the Railway Act.

With a view to facilitate passengers in getting reserved tickets, Indian Railways has provided the facility of booking reserved tickets through website of Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)/its app, reservation counters of Indian Railways, authorised ticketing agents, etc, for online as well as counter tickets, etc. Taking such measures to facilitate passengers is a continuous and ongoing process.
