

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 276
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.03.2026**

CATEGORISATION OF TICKET FARE AS TRADE SECRET

***276. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has categorised the ticket fare as a trade secret which leads to the rejection of RTI applications;**
- (b) if so, the details of reasons for this categorisation despite the fact that the Railway being a public sector enterprise is operating on taxpayers' money;**
- (c) the manner in which it reconciles this stance with Section 8(1) (d) of the RTI Act, 2005 which exempts only commercial confidence of private parties;**
- (d) the details of the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure greater transparency in the operation of the railways and fare determination; and**
- (e) the details of the timeline for public disclosure of the base fare formula including dynamic pricing to enable parliamentary oversight on the pricing policy?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.276 TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.03.2026 IN LOK SABHA

(a) to (e) Ministry of Railway does not consider ticket fare as a “trade secret”. The information related to fares for all categories of Passenger Services is a widely published information available in the public domain.

Indian Railways strives to provide affordable services to all strata of the society and gave a subsidy of ₹ 60,239 cr on passenger tickets in 2024-25. This amounts to concession of 43% on an average, to every person, travelling on Railways. In other words, if the cost of providing service is ₹100, then the price of ticket is ₹57 only. This subsidy is continuing for all passengers.

To ensure utmost transparency, details of various components of passenger fares (Base fare, Reservation charge, Superfast charge, GST, etc.) are displayed on passenger tickets, published as fare tables in physical and digital form, available / displayed on computerized ticketing systems (Passenger Reservation System, Unreserved Ticketing System), mobile applications (RailOne), etc.

Further, information related to any change in the passenger fares rationalisation, revisions, etc., undertaken from time to time is also widely published.

Indian Railways as a public owned enterprise is fully accountable to the people and to the Parliament for delivery of services in a financially sustainable manner.

Passenger fares are determined taking into consideration cost of service, competition from other modes of transportation, affordability, etc..

Further, RTI applications seeking information on the subject are examined on a case to case basis as per the provisions of RTI Act, 2005.
