

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 542
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2026**

**AVAILABILITY OF RAILWAY ACCOMMODATION FOR PILGRIMS TO
RAMESWARAM**

542. SHRI NAVASKANI K:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that people travelling for pilgrimage to Rameswaram are often unable to obtain confirmed railway tickets even immediately after the opening of reservations, resulting in a large number of waitlisted passengers and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether Government has assessed the demand for sleeper class accommodation in long-distance trains serving Rameswaram and the adequacy of the existing coach composition and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the details of the average waitlist position, coach composition and lower berth allotment for senior citizens in major long-distance trains originating from/terminating at Rameswaram during the last three years, year-wise;**
- (d) whether the Government proposes to introduce new trains to and from Rameswaram and augment sleeper coaches in existing trains to meet the growing demand of pilgrims and other passengers and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure timely confirmation of tickets and availability of lower berths for senior citizens travelling to and from Rameswaram?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

- (a) to (e) The demand pattern of reserved accommodation on Indian Railways including in the trains serving Rameswaram is not uniform**

throughout the year and it varies over lean and peak periods. Further, the trains running on popular routes and convenient timings are generally well patronized, however, in other trains, accommodation is generally available. Demand pattern of passenger traffic is monitored on regular basis and based on this assessment, new trains are introduced, special trains are operated during festivals/holidays/summer/winter/pilgrimage seasons and load of existing trains is augmented on temporary/permanent basis to meet the unmet demand, subject to operational feasibility.

During 2025-26, Indian Railways, with a view to facilitate the passengers of Rameswaram station, have introduced 16621/16622 Rameswaram - Mangaluru Central Express (w.e.f. 14.03.2026) and 16103/16104 Tambaram - Rameswaram Express (w.e.f. 06.04.2025). Accordingly, Rameswaram station is presently being served by 34 train services including the following 28 Mail/Express services:

SN	Train No. & Name
1	16103 Tambaram - Rameswaram Express
2	16104 Rameswaram - Tambaram Express
3	16343 Thiruvananthapuram Central - Rameswaram Express
4	16344 Rameswaram - Thiruvananthapuram Central Express
5	16617 Rameswaram - Coimbatore Express
6	16618 Coimbatore - Rameswaram Express
7	16621 Rameswaram - Mangalore Central Express
8	16622 Mangalore Central - Rameswaram Express
9	16733 Rameswaram - Okha Express
10	16734 Okha - Rameswaram Express
11	16751 Chennai Egmore - Rameswaram Express
12	16752 Rameswaram - Chennai Egmore Express
13	16779 Tirupati - Rameswaram Express

14	16780 Rameswaram - Tirupati Express
15	16849 Tiruchchirappalli - Rameswaram Express
16	16850 Rameswaram - Tiruchchirappalli Express
17	20497 Rameswaram - Firozpur Cantt Humsafar Express
18	20498 Firozpur Cantt - Rameswaram Humsafar Express
19	20849 Bhubaneswar - Rameswaram Express
20	20850 Rameswaram - Bhubaneswar Express
21	22535 Rameswaram - Banaras Express
22	22536 Banaras - Rameswaram Express
23	22613 Rameswaram - Ayodhya Cantt Express
24	22614 Ayodhya Cantt - Rameswaram Express
25	22621 Rameswaram - Kanniyakumari Express
26	22622 Kanniyakumari - Rameswaram Express
27	22661 Chennai Egmore - Rameswaram Express
28	22662 Rameswaram - Chennai Egmore Express

Besides, introduction of new train/augmentation of existing train services on any route/section, which is an on-going process, 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.**
- **Occupancy and the traffic requirement of the section.**

Further, Indian Railways continuously strive to provide various facilities for the convenience of all categories of passengers including Senior Citizens. Some of the facilities extended to Senior Citizens are as under:

- **Allotment of lower berths to Senior Citizens, Female passengers of 45 years and above automatically, even if no choice is given, subject to availability**
- **Earmarking of a combined quota of six to seven lower berths per coach in Sleeper class, four to five lower berths per coach each in Air Conditioned 3 tier (3AC) and three to four lower berths per coach in Air Conditioned 2 tier (2AC) classes (depending on the number of coaches of that class in the train) for senior citizens, female passengers 45 years of age and above and pregnant women.**
- **Allotment of lower berths falling vacant in the train to senior citizens, Persons with Disabilities & pregnant women (who have been allotted middle/upper berth) on priority.**
- **Earmarking of unreserved accommodation for senior citizens in 2nd class general compartment on suburban sections of Indian Railways.**
- **Earmarking of separate counters at various Passenger Reservation System (PRS) centers for dealing with the reservation requisitions received from senior citizens subject to demand pattern and availability of counters.**
