

Executive lounges for 1st class passengers

1564. SHRI SALIM ANSARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to set up Executive Lounges at railway stations for 1st class passengers, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the facilities Railways would provide at those lounges and the cost of using them by passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has been entrusted with the task of setting up Executive Lounges at 49 locations. The Executive Lounges provide value added services at a charge, offering facilities such as Wifi internet, buffet services, wash and change, concierge services for pre-departure and post-arrival assistance to passengers of all classes of travel. Executive Lounge at New Delhi, Jaipur and Agra Cantt. railway stations are operational. The charge for using the lounge at New Delhi station is ₹150/- for first 2 hours, and for Jaipur and Agra Cantt. stations is ₹ 100/- for first 2 hours; and ₹ 50/- per hour thereafter for all stations. Additional charges are collected for optional services like meals, wash and change, business centre etc.

Replacement of old coaches

1565. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that old coaches that have outlived their utility, are widely deployed in express trains across the country, posing a major safety issue;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the total number of coaches which are more than twenty years old and are still being deployed in trains, zone-wise;

(c) the reasons for delay in replacement of old coaches; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir. Passenger coaches are withdrawn from service after completion of their permitted service life.

(b) Does not arise. The number of passenger coaches, which are between 21-25 years of age and deployed in trains, are listed zone-wise as under:

Zonal Railway	Number of passenger coaches aged 21-25 years (as on 31.03.15)
Central Railway	705
Eastern Railway	812
East Central Railway	365
East Coast Railway	217
Northern Railway	876
North Central Railway	178
North Eastern Railway	290
Northeast Frontier Railway	178
North Western Railway	236
Southern Railway	699
South Central Railway	596
South Eastern Railway	432
South East Central Railway	129
South Western Railway	397
Western Railway	643
West Central Railway	120
TOTAL (INDIAN RAILWAYS)	6873

These coaches are within permitted service life. Most of the coaches are also given 'Mid-life' rehabilitation after 12-15 years of age.

(c) and (d) There is no delay in replacement of old coaches. Replacement of old coaches is carried out timely and no coach is allowed to remain in service beyond its permitted service life.

Flash strike by railway employees

1566. DR. K. P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have chargesheeted many of its employees for going on flash strike, if so, the details thereof; and