

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1589**  
**ANSWERED ON 10.12.2021**

**HIGH FARE SPECIAL TRAINS**

1589. SHRI K.C.VENUGOPAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the special trains charge higher fares than the regular train fares during the COVID period and if so, the total revenue generated by increasing the fares in these special trains;
- (b) whether any regular trains are also being operated during this period;
- (c) whether Government is planning to normalize the regular train service with the lifting of lockdown and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether only ready-to-eat items are being sold in trains and if so, whether there is any plan to restart full catering services in trains?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS &  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1589 BY SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 10.12.2021 REGARDING HIGH FARE SPECIAL TRAINS**

(a) to (c): With a view to contain spread of COVID-19 pandemic, Indian Railways had discontinued all regular train carrying services w.e.f. 23rd March, 2020. In view of the COVID-19 situation, only special trains, with limited stoppages, keeping in view the suggestions and concerns of State Governments, were being operated.

The special train services were being operated as Mail / Express Special (MSPC), Passenger Special (PSPC) and Holiday Special (HSP).

The Mail / Express special (MSPC) were being operated on the fare as applicable for regular Time Tabled trains. During COVID times, as passenger demands were not uniform over different sectors, some special trains on special charges/ Holiday specials (HSP)/ Clone trains were introduced to meet the additional demands over different sectors as per already published fare for special trains on special charges since the year 2015. Further, unreserved second class was declared as reserved second class in view of pandemic situation. Also, the fare in short distance travel varied depending upon categorisation of trains as Special trains indicated above.

Trains which were being operated as Mail / Express Special / Holiday Special (MSPC/HSP) due to COVID pandemic and were included in the working time table, 2021, are now being operated with regular numbers and with fares and categorisation as applicable.

Total Passenger Revenue generated for the last three years is as under:-

Year	Total Passenger Revenue ( ₹ in crores)
2018-19	51,066.65
2019-20	50,669.09
2020-21	15,248.49

(d): Instructions have been issued on 19.11.2021 to resume the service of cooked food in trains. Service of Ready to Eat meals would also continue.

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