

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2037
ANSWERED ON 17.03.2023

DECLINE IN PERCENTAGE OF SENIOR CITIZEN PASSENGERS IN RAILWAYS

2037. SHRI MOHAMMED NADIMUL HAQUE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) percentage of senior citizens who travelled by trains in the last three years;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there has been a decline in percentage of senior citizens travelling by trains, if so, reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government will bring back the concession granted to senior citizens amounting to 40-50 per cent of railway fares;
- (d) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to address the concerns of senior citizens travelling by trains?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS 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 UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2037 BY SHRI MOHAMMED NADIMUL HAQUE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 17.03.2023 REGARDING DECLINE IN PERCENTAGE OF SENIOR CITIZEN PASSENGERS IN RAILWAYS.

(a): During the last three financial years viz. 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 (up to February 2023), the percentage of senior citizens who travelled by trains in reserved classes on Indian Railways has been 6.58%, 7.27% and 10.21% respectively.

(b): No, Sir.

(c) & (d): Government gave subsidy of ₹ 59,837 Crore on passenger tickets in 2019-20. This amounts to concession of 53% on an average, to every person, travelling on Railways. This subsidy is continuing for all passengers. Further concessions beyond this subsidy amount are continuing for many categories like Divyangjans, students and patients.

(e): With a view to facilitate senior citizens undertaking journey by trains, following facilities have been extended by Indian Railways to senior citizens from time to time: -

- (i) Provision to allot lower berths automatically to Senior Citizens, Female passengers of 45 years and above even if no choice is given, subject to availability of accommodation at the time of booking.
- (ii) 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.
- (iii) Earmarking of unreserved accommodation for senior citizens in 2nd class general compartment on suburban sections of Indian Railways.
- (iv) Introduction of Yatri Mitra Sewa at major railway stations for enabling passengers to book wheel chairs services cum porter services.
- (v) Provision of Battery-Operated Vehicles (BOVs) at some important stations for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjans), senior citizens, sick passengers, pregnant women.
- (vi) Allotment of vacant lower berth available in the train to any person with disability booked on the authority of handicapped concession or a senior citizen or a pregnant woman, who has been allotted upper/middle berth, on approach.
- (vii) 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.
