

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.567
ANSWERED ON 26.07.2024

**FACILITIES FOR PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED AND SENIOR CITIZENS
PASSENGERS**

567 SHRI S. KALYANASUNDARAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plans to introduce new coaches for the travel of physically challenged and senior citizens in trains so as to be more convenient for them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the reasons for withdrawal of senior citizen concession by Government and the details thereof;
- (d) the tentative date as to when the senior citizen concession will be restarted, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether Government is providing concessions to physically challenged passengers, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) & (b): Indian Railways has already been facilitating a separate compartment earmarked for Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) in last vehicle LSLRD/SLRD (Second class cum Luggage cum Guard Van & Disabled Friendly Compartment) marshalled in almost all Mail/Express trains operating with both Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) & Integral Coach Factory (ICF) coaches. These coaches have wider entrance doors, wider berths, wider compartments, larger lavatory with wider doors, wheel chair parking area, etc. Inside the toilets, additional grab rails on the side walls for support and wash basin and mirror at a suitable height are also available.

....2/-

Besides, in all Vande-Bharat trains, the driving coaches on each end have the provision of similar facilities for Divyangjan like automatic plug type wide entrance door, earmark space for parking wheel chair, larger lavatory area for complete movement of wheel chair, Braille signage, low height wash basin, western commode with handrails at suitable height etc.

(c) to (e): Indian Railways strives to provide affordable services to all strata of the society and gave subsidy of ₹56,993 crore on passenger tickets in 2022-23. This amounts to concession of 46% 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 4 categories of Persons with disabilities (Divyangjans), 11 categories of patients and 8 categories of students.
