

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1395
ANSWERED ON 02.08.2024

FATALITIES DUE TO OVERCROWDING

1395 SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been an increase in passenger fatalities due to overcrowding in trains due to travel by passengers having unconfirmed tickets in the last three years;
- (b) the details of accidents caused by defective train infrastructure since 2019, State -wise;
- (c) reasons for Railways' failure to implement foolproof safety mechanisms for berths despite repeated incidents;
- (d) whether Government acknowledges its responsibility in such accidents, given the lack of proper passenger education on safety features; and
- (e) the details of compensation provided to victims' families in berth –related accidents and steps taken to hold negligent officials accountable?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING 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. 1395 BY SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 02.08.2024 REGARDING FATALITIES DUE TO OVERCROWDING

(a) to (e): In order to cater to the travelling needs of passengers, Indian Railways (IR), operates various types of regular time-tabled trains e.g. Suburban, short distance Passenger trains, long distance/Mail/Express/ Superfast trains with different composition catering to different segments of passengers.

In its constant endeavour to provide additional accommodation to travelling passengers, IR operates Special train services during festivals, holidays, etc. and also augments the load of trains, both on permanent and temporary basis, to meet the additional demand. These are on-going processes.

Further, to provide greater accommodation for the passengers using General and non-AC Sleeper Coaches, the extant policy regarding composition of Mail/Express trains, provide for 12 (Twelve) General class & Sleeper class non- AC coaches and 08 (eight) AC-Coaches, in a train of 22 coaches. Of the total number of Coaches being presently utilised for running of train services, two-third are non-AC, and one-third are AC variants. Keeping in view increased demand, IR has planned to manufacture 10,000 non-AC Coaches including General Class and Sleeper Class Coaches.

Additionally, Indian Railways have introduced Amrit Bharat services, which have modern State-of the Art technology are equipped with advanced features like Semi-Permanent couplers for jerk free travel, horizontal sliding windows, foldable snack table and bottle holders, mobile holders etc. These services, which are fully non-AC trains, presently comprising 12 Sleeper Class Coaches and 8 General Class coaches, are providing high quality services to the passengers.

There is no incident of fatalities due to overcrowding in trains by passengers having unconfirmed tickets during last three years. Further, no incidents of accident caused due to defective train infrastructure reported during last 5 years.
