

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2300
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2007
FACILITIES TO DISABLED PERSONS
Mahato Shri Narahari

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the facilities provided by the Railways to the disabled persons right from entering the railway platforms to the completion of the journey;
- (b) whether any arrangement has been made to inform disabled persons about the coaches reserved for them and their locations;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of arrangements made to allot the lowest berths to the passengers belonging to disabled persons in trains?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) to (d): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2300 BY SHRINARAHARI MAHATO TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 15-03-2007 REGARDING FACILITIES TO DISABLED PERSONS

(a) : In pursuance of implementation of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, Railways have planned to provide the following seven short-term facilities :

1. Standard ramp for Barrier free entry,
2. Earmarking parking lots for vehicles used by Disabled Persons,
3. Non-slippery walkway,
4. Signage,
5. Toilets,
6. Water taps suitable for needs of handicapped person,
7. 'May I Help You' Booth.

Besides, wheel chairs have been provided at important stations.

In the first instance all identified facilities have been provided at all 'A' categories stations. Now railway has targeted to provide these facilities at all 'B' categories stations during 2007-08 subject to availability of funds.

Regarding inter platform connectivity, trolley paths have been provided at the end of the platforms of important stations which have been authorized for use by handicapped persons on wheel chairs with escorts.

Indian Railways are manufacturing certain passenger coaches, which have a separate compartment specially designed for wheel chair borne passengers. These compartments have facilities like wider door-way, aisle and knee space to permit easy movement of wheel chair, wider berths, toilet adapted to needs of such passengers, arrangements for securing wheel chairs during the journey etc. Some such disabled friendly coaches are already in service. It has been decided to provide one such coach in every mail/express train during next two years.

(b) & (c) : Disabled friendly coaches bear relevant signage and marking notice on the coach body.

(d) : Computerised Passenger Reservation System automatically allots lower berth to the handicapped persons performing their journey on handicapped concessional ticket and middle/upper berths near the handicapped person to the person accompanying them as escort, subject to availability of such berths at the time of booking.

After departure of the train, if there are vacant lower berths available in the train, and if any physically handicapped person booked on the authority of handicapped concessional ticket, who has been allotted upper/middle berth, approaches for allotment of vacant lower berths, the Conductor/Train Ticket Examiner(TTE) has been authorized to allot the vacant lower berth to them making necessary entries in the chart.