

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4923

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2010

FACILITIES FOR DISABLED

Dutt Smt. Priya Sunil; Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have any plan to construct special disabled-friendly coaches including for the Mumbai sub-urban routes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and time frame set for its implementation;
- (c) whether reserved coaches for disabled passengers are not adequately available in the trains;
- (d) the details of trains which have this facility;
- (e) whether the platforms in the country, including Mumbai sub-urban routes are disabled friendly;
- (f) if not, the steps taken in this regard;
- (g) the steps taken by the Railways to provide ticket reservation facilities for the differently-abled persons and the details thereof;
- (h) the number of stations where specially designed lavatories and other facilities for the physically challenged persons are not available; and
- (i) the steps being taken to make all the railway stations physically challenged persons friendly?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA)

(a) to (d): Indian Railways have already manufactured about 2100 coaches which have suitably designed compartments & toilets adapted to the needs of the wheel chair borne/disabled persons. It is endeavored to have at least one such coach in each Mail/Express train.

Fully air conditioned Garib Rath trains have been provided with Air conditioned disabled friendly compartment & toilet in the power cars.

Likewise in suburban trains, EMU coaches have adequate doorway opening for entry and exit for wheel chair borne/disabled persons. Provision of earmarked compartments for disabled passengers also exists in select sub-urban Trains, including at Mumbai.

(e) & (f): In pursuance of implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, amenities to make stations, including suburban station of Mumbai area, more accessible to handicapped persons, have been planned to be provided through a prioritised action plan in phased manner. Such identified amenities are standard ramp, parking lots, non-slippery walkway, signages, toilets, water taps, 'May I Help You' booths and wheel chairs. Railways have also planned to provide facility of inter-platform transfer through use of pathways provided at the end of platforms for disabled persons particularly, those in wheel chairs. It has also been planned to provide barrier free access through provision of lifts/escalators over major and important railway stations which have been identified for development as world class stations.

(g) In addition to earmarking of reservation quota of 2 Sleeper class berths in a train for differently abled persons, separate reservation ticket counters are also earmarked for them at major reservation centers.

(h) & (i): Out of the 342 'A-1' and 'A' category stations on Indian Railways, public conveniences in the form of toilets and water booths, suited for disabled passengers, have been provided at 322 stations. Standard ramps for providing access to stations have been provided at 338 stations. In addition, ramps at ends of platforms have been provided at 277 of these stations to facilitate inter-platform transfer. Ramps have also been provided at Foot over Bridges at 64 such stations.