

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:223
ANSWERED ON:06.02.2014
DISABLED FRIENDLY RAILWAY STATIONS
Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the various categories of railway stations along with the facilities being extended to the differently abled persons in trains and at railway stations;
- (b) whether the Railways propose to develop "B" category railway stations across the country into disabled-friendly stations;
- (c) if so, the details thereof including the stations identified for the purpose, zone-wise;
- (d) whether escalators/lifts are being put in place at railway stations across the country for easier access to foot-bridges for senior citizens; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.223 BY SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 06.02.2014 REGARDING DISABLED-FRIENDLY RAILWAY STATIONS.

(a) For provision of the amenities in an objective manner, the stations have been classified into seven categories based on the annual earnings from passenger traffic of the stations as under:

Category Criteria

A1 Non-suburban stations with an annual passenger earnings of more than Rs.60 crores.

A Non-suburban stations with an annual passenger earnings of Rs.8 crores and upto Rs. 60 crores.

B I. Non suburban stations with annual passenger earnings between Rs.4 crores and Rs.8 crores.
 II. Stations of tourist importance or an important junction station (to be decided by General Manager)

C All suburban stations

D Non suburban stations with passenger earnings between Rs.60 lakhs and Rs.4 crores

E Non suburban stations with earnings less than Rs.60 lakhs

F Halts

Provision/augmentation of amenities at station, including those for differently abled passengers is a continuous process. Short term facilities like standard ramp for barrier free entry, earmarking at least two parking lots, non-slippery walk-way from parking lot to building, signages of appropriate visibility, at least one drinking water tap suitable for use by differently abled persons, at least one toilet on the ground floor and 'May I help you' Booth, have been planned at all stations beginning with 'A1', 'A' and 'B' category stations. Long term facilities viz. Provision of facility for inter-platform transfer and Engraving on edges of platform, are planned after provision of short term facilities. Instructions also exist for provision of wheel chair at stations. This facility is provided free of cost, duly escorted by coolies (on payment) as per present practice. Battery operated vehicles for disabled and old age passengers have also been provided at some of the major railway stations.

Indian Railways have so far manufactured about 3000 SLRD/SRD coaches which have a suitably designed compartment and toilets adapted to the needs of differently abled/wheel chair borne passengers. 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 an air conditioned differently abled compartment and toilets in power cars.

(b) & (c) Yes, Madam. There are 302 'B' category stations on Indian Railway. Zone wise details are appended. These stations are provided with disabled friendly short term facilities followed by provision of long term facilities on programmed basis. (d) & (e): Escalators & lifts have been planned for A-1 category and other important railway stations across Indian Railways subject to availability of funds. So far, 186 escalators at 71 railway stations and 101 lifts at 44 railway stations including Metro Railway Kolkata and suburban stations of Chennai have been provided. Further, sanction exists for 471 more escalators and 400 lifts for railway stations.