

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3706
ANSWERED ON:13.02.2014
DIFFERENTLY ABLED FRIENDLY COACHES
Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Rail coaches designated for the differently able persons have been changed to reserved coaches with reduced quota meant for them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of steps taken by the Railways to facilitate the movement of differently abled and senior citizens in and outside the Railway station?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY)

(a)&(b) No, Madam. In all Mail Express trains (except fully reserved trains like Garib Rath Express trains), specially designed coaches for handicapped persons known as SLRD coaches are treated as unreserved coaches. Moreover, a reservation quota of two Sleeper class berths has also been earmarked in Mail Express trains for the use of physically handicapped persons and escort. In Garib Rath Express trains, the accommodation available in SLRD coaches is treated as reserved and physically handicapped persons can book accommodation in this coach on production of attested photocopy of the concession certificate and on payment of full fare of 3AC class of Garib Rath Express train.

(c) Provision/augmentation of amenities at stations, including those for differently abled and senior citizen is a continuous process. Short term facilities for disabled persons 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. Out of 709, 'A1', 'A' & 'B' category stations, short term facilities including disabled friendly toilets have been provided at 562 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.