

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:152
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2014
OVERCROWDING IN RAILWAYS
Kumar Shri Kaushalendra

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of passengers travelling in General Coaches are subjected to inhuman conditions due to overcrowding of coaches especially during peak season, and if so, the reaction of Railways thereto;
- (b) the norms fixed by the Railways for attaching extra coaches to accommodate the Waitlisted -General passengers;
- (c) whether the Railways have undertaken any study to assess the traffic pattern of different classes of passengers, if so, the details of the last study undertaken for the purpose and the outcome thereof; and
- (d) the corrective action taken/being taken by Railways in the matter?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 152 BY SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 17.07.2014 REGARDING OVERCROWDING IN RAILWAYS

(a) to (d) Yes, Madam. As the demand for travel surges especially during the peak season, general coaches in trains witness overcrowding. However, to cater to these peak surges in travel demand, Indian Railways runs special trains including fully un-reserved special trains and also augments coaches subject to operational feasibility, traffic demand and availability of resources etc. As a matter of policy, all new Mail/Express trains introduced after 2007-08 have at least 6 general coaches in their standard composition, except fully reserved trains like Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Duronto etc. Besides, to cater to the unreserved traffic, certain long distance trains like Jan Sadharan Express, Janseva Express, Jannayak Express & Passenger trains and some short distance Intercity are run with only General Second Class accommodation.

Regular analysis and review of occupancy pattern is being undertaken, and every year in the Budget, new trains and increase in the frequency of existing trains are announced. During peak season and surges in demand for travel, trains are being augmented with additional coaches, depending on the waiting-list position, operational feasibility and availability of coaches. Special trains are also planned to clear seasonal rush, as well as on special occasions such as Melas, Urs, Festivals, Exams etc. In the year 2013-14, about 41386 special trains trips and 132514 extra coach trips were run, while 778 coaches including 231 general class coaches were deployed for permanent augmentation. Further, in the 2014-15 Railway Budget (including the interim Budget), 138 new trains, extension of 15 trains and increase in frequency of 4 trains has been announced including five new Jansadharan Express trains (i.e. fully unreserved trains).