

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.234
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.02.2021**

SUSPENSION OF TRAINS DUE TO COVID

**†234. SHRI BASANTA KUMAR PANDA:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH:
SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI ANIL FIROJIYA:
SHRI DIPSINH SHANKARSINH RATHOD:
SHRI SANJAY BHATIA:
SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJI KUNDARIYA:
SHRIMATI SUNITA DUGGAL:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways proposes to resume the operations of Mails, Express and passenger trains which were suspended as a measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19;**
- (b) whether all the trains have been started with unreserved category coaches;**
- (c) if not, the reasons thereof and when the passengers can travel in un-reserved category coaches;**
- (d) whether the Government has received any requests from public and various stakeholders for restarting operation of these trains;**
- (e) if so, the time by which the Government is likely to re-short the operation of the said trains in view of the problems faced by public in commuting while like the transport services like inter State bus service, metro rail service and airline services, etc. have already been started for along time; and**
- (f) the date from which catering services are likely to be resumed in the currently operational special trains?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMERCE & INDUSTRY AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

- (a) To prevent the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, Indian Railways discontinued all regular passenger carrying trains w.e.f. 23rd March, 2020 as per the extant guidelines issued by Government of India. In**

accordance with the further guidelines issued by the Government from time to time, Indian Railways resumed passenger train operations w.e.f. 1st May, 2020 by operating Shramik special trains followed by operation of Rajdhani Special services w.e.f. 12th May, 2020 and other special trains w.e.f 1st June, 2020. The number of services have been increased in a phased manner and presently, Indian Railways is operating 1206 Mail/Express Special Trains, 204 Passenger trains and 5017 Suburban Trains. Additionally, 684 Festival Special are also being operated.

(b) & (c) The Special Train services, being operated, have General Class coaches, which are being booked like reserved class coaches, in view of the prevailing pandemic situation and as per the guidelines issued by the Government.

(d) & (e) Indian Railways is keeping a close watch on the prevailing situation and is in all readiness to resume regular train operations. Keeping in view the concerns and suggestions of State Governments to efficiently manage COVID-19 pandemic, Special trains are being operated currently.

(f) Provision of catering services in currently operational special trains has been made from the respective date of their resumption. In order to provide safe and hygienic catering services in pandemic time, provision of only Ready to Eat Meals (RTE), packed items, Packaged Drinking Water, Tea/Coffee/Beverages in the special trains has been made on payment basis through Pantry Cars, Train Side Vending and Static units at enroute station. In addition, passengers travelling in trains have the facility to order food of their choice through e-Catering services which are available at major stations enroute.
