

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3199
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2025**

SUBSIDY IN FARE FOR DIVYANG AND SENIOR CITIZEN

†3199. SHRI UTKARSH VERMA MADHUR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways has any plan to restore the subsidy in the fare tickets for Divyang and Senior Citizens as given before, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor;**
- (b) the reasons behind not reserving lower berths for the handicapped and senior citizens;**
- (c) whether there is any plan to implement this, if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) the details of the States of the country where there is plan to run bullet trains;**
- (e) whether there is any plan to run bullet train in Uttar Pradesh in the near future and if so, the expected time of it's running; and**
- (f) the time by when the bullet train is likely to ply through Lakhimpur Kheri?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a): Indian Railways strives to provide affordable services to all strata of the society and gave subsidy of ₹56,993 cr on passenger tickets in 2022-23. This amounts to concession of 46% on an average, to every person, travelling on Railways. In other words for easier understanding, if the cost of providing service is ₹100, then the price of ticket is ₹54 only. This subsidy is continuing for all passengers. Further, concessions beyond this subsidy amount are continuing for many categories like 4 categories of Persons with disabilities (Divyangjans), 11 categories of patients and 8 categories of students.

(b) & (c): The following steps have been taken for facilitating provision of lower berths to Persons with Disabilities and Senior Citizens:

- (i) Allotment of lower berths to Senior Citizens, Female passengers of 45 years and above automatically, even if no choice is given, subject to availability.**
- (ii) Earmarking of a combined quota of six to seven lower berths per coach in Sleeper class, four to five lower berths per coach each in Air Conditioned 3 tier (3AC) and three to four lower berths per coach in Air Conditioned 2 tier (2AC) classes (depending on the number of coaches of that class in the train) for senior citizens, female passengers 45 years of age and above and pregnant women.**
- (iii) Earmarking of reservation quota of four berths in sleeper class (including two lower berths) and four berths in 3AC/3E (including two lower berths) and four seats in reserved second sitting (2S)/air-conditioned Chair Car (CC) in all mail/express trains including Rajdhani/Shatabdi type trains irrespective of the fact that whether concession facilities is available or not to Persons with Disabilities.**
- (iv) Allotment of lower berths falling vacant in the train to Senior Citizens, Persons with Disabilities or pregnant women (who have been allotted middle/upper berth) on priority.**

(d) to (f): Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) Project is the only sanctioned project of High Speed Rail in India which is under execution with technical and financial assistance from Government of Japan.
