



ALL INDIA BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED RETIRED EXECUTIVES' ASSOCIATION

Central Headquarters

Registered under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 vide Govt. of NCT Delhi No. S/RS/SW/1161/2014

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Flat No.6, Second Floor, 10/41, Sowrashtranagar 7th Cross Street, Choolaimedu, Chennai – 600094

Email: gensecaibsnlrea@yahoo.com

Website: <https://www.aibsnlrea.org>

President

V. Chinnappiah
(M) 9444003300

General Secretary

R.R.Balasubramanian
(M) 9486100613

Financial Secretary

Awadesh Sharma
(M) 9968630008

No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2025/32

Date: 10th April 2025

To

Shri Narendra Modi,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India,
New Delhi

Sub: REQUEST FOR RESTORATION OF CONCESSION IN TRAIN FARES TO SENIOR CITIZENS

Respected Sir,

We are constrained to draw your kind attention to the continued neglect of the senior citizens by the Ministry of Railways by refusing to restore the concessional rail fare they were availing for several decades but were withdrawn in the year 2020, citing the Corona pandemic.

2. We would like to recall your words of acknowledgment and appreciation of the elderly on their role in Nation Building, which still reverberates in our minds. Just a year after taking over as Prime Minister of India, you had addressed the Elders of India rightly stating that **“Many of you belong to that privileged generation which has had the honour of contributing to both India’s independence, as well as its consequent nation building. We are what we are today because of you. And for this we are all deeply proud and eternally indebted to you. Thus, it is the nation’s responsibility to look after you. This is but a mere continuation of India’s ethos of ‘respect for elders’ – our Bharatiyata.”**

3. You have made your intent clear by repeating this commitment on several occasions later by listing out the measures taken by your Government in this direction, like introduction of Prime Minister Vaya Vandhana Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, setting up of Senior Citizen Welfare Fund and recently expanding the **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB**

PM-JAY) to provide free health insurance coverage of up to ₹5 lakh per year for senior citizens aged 70 and above, regardless of their income.

4. It is therefore very disappointing that the long existing concession for senior citizens in trains was withdrawn in the year 2020 initially on the plea that ***“the concession that was being provided to senior citizens stands cancelled to discourage unnecessary travel during the COVID-19 pandemic.”*** Despite the Parliamentary standing committee on Railways, in the year 2022 had advised to review and consider concession to senior citizens at least in sleeper class and 3AC. But Minister of Railways refused to restore it, saying ***“restarting concessions to senior citizens on train tickets is not desirable since the cost of concession weighs heavily on Railways”***. To a pointed question in Parliament whether ***“the Government’s assessment of how discontinued concessions is likely to affect the number of senior citizens travelling”***, the Minister of Railways had replied that ***“Railways operate different types of train services like Garib Rath, Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Duronto, Vande Bharat, Gatimaan, Tejas, Humsafar, Mail/Express, Ordinary passenger etc. Apart from this, different classes 1st AC, 2nd AC, 3rd AC, AC Chair Car, sleeper class, second class reserved/Unreserved etc are available on different fare structures for the use of passengers including Senior citizens who can travel as per their preferences”***. **The senior citizens were taken aback by this extremely painful remark, which was in direct contrast to the expression of ‘respect for elders’ by Hon’ble Prime Minister of India.**

5. In 2023, the Railway Minister informed Parliament that ***“the Railways was providing a substantial subsidy of Rs 59,837 crore on passenger tickets in 2019-20 to cater to all segments of society, amounting to an average concession of 53 per cent for every railway traveller. Revenue foregone due to concessions in passenger fare to Senior citizens during 2019-20 was approximately Rs 1,667 Crore.”*** **This is less than 3% of the total subsidy provided.** It is not known what was gained by the Railways by stopping senior citizen concession.

6. According to a Press Release by PIB, ***“Indian Railways Achieves ₹2.56 Lakh Crore Revenue in 2023-24 with Net Profit of ₹3,260 Crore Amid Major Investments in Staff, Pension, and Energy”***. This has increased to 2.7 Lakh Crores in 2024-25. This led to an expectation for an announcement on restoration of this concession during presentation of Budget 2025, but the senior citizens have been deeply disenchanted.

7. **Restoring the senior citizen concession in trains is not just about the financial relief it provides; it is a matter of respect and recognition for the elderly population.** Senior citizens have contributed significantly to the nation's development and deserve to be acknowledged for their efforts. The concession is a small but meaningful gesture that shows the government's appreciation for their lifelong contributions. It also aligns with the ethos of 'respect for elders,' which is deeply rooted in our culture. **By reinstating this concession, the government can demonstrate its**

commitment to the welfare of senior citizens, ensuring they feel valued and respected. This act of recognition can greatly enhance their sense of dignity and belonging, fostering a more inclusive and compassionate society.

8. In view of the above, we request you to impress upon the Hon'ble Minister of Railways the need to restore the senior citizen concession in trains. In view of the significant increase in revenue and net profit, it is now an opportune time to reinstate this concession, which will greatly benefit our senior citizens.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R.R. Balasubramanian', with the date '10/4/25' written below it.

(R.R. Balasubramanian)

General Secretary

Copy to: Shri Ashwini Vaishnav,
Minister of Railways, Gol