

RAILWAYS REACHES OUT

Fare deal for disabled travelling unaccompanied

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IN a big relief to disabled passengers, the Railways has announced a policy allowing them to avail concession in fares while travelling alone. At present, concessional tickets aren't issued unless the passenger is accompanied by an escort.

The Ministry of Railways has said that orthopedically handicapped/paraplegic and mentally challenged persons who cannot

travel without an escort and blind persons travelling alone or with an escort — for any purpose — will get 75 per cent concession in second, sleeper first, AC chair car and AC 3 Tier. According to the Railways, this will help increase the self esteem of the disabled.

They will get 50 per cent in first class and AC 2-tier; 25 percent in AC 3-tier and AC Chair Car of Rajdhani/Shatabdi trains. They will also be eligible for 50 per cent concession in monthly and quarterly

season tickets. Deaf and mute persons travelling alone or with an escort will get 50 per cent concession in second, sleeper and first class.

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One escort is also eligible for the same element of concession in respective categories, said a Railway officer. Some railway officers, however, warned of the misuse of the provision.

