

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 19
ANSWERED ON 03.02.2023

REPLACEMENT OF PREMIUM TRAINS WITH VANDE BHARAT TRAINS

19 SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Centre plans to replace all Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Super Express trains with Vande Bharat Trains, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) the number of existing and operational trains in the country, train type-wise;
- (c) whether Government plans on doing so itself or leaving it in the hands of private players, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government has an expected timeline and estimated budget for the same, the details thereof; and
- (e) Government's plan to accomplish it with an existing debt of 7 lakh crore on the Railways, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 19 BY SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 03.02.2023 REGARDING REPLACEMENT OF PREMIUM TRAINS WITH VANDE BHARAT TRAINS

(a) to (e) The 8 (eight) pairs of Vande Bharat services, operational as on 30th January, 2023, have been introduced as new services on their respective sectors and are not replacement of existing services. At present, no service on the Indian Railways (IR) network is being operated by private train operators. As per extant rules, Ministry of Railways (MoR) cannot borrow funds directly from the market and the Extra Budgetary Resources including those required for procuring assets, are met through financial lease from Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC). As on 31.03.2022, MoR's Principal outstanding liability against IRFC borrowings is approximately ₹ 4.30 lakh crore. IRFC Lease charges are being paid on regular basis.

In addition to the passenger trains and sub-urban services, 3269 Express services including 50 Rajdhani services and 44 Shatabdi services are being operated over IR network. Besides, introduction of train services including Vande Bharat Express and replacement of train services is an ongoing process on IR subject to operational feasibility, resource availability, traffic justification etc.
