

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2047
ANSWERED ON 17.03.2023

VANDALIZATION OF VANDE BHARAT TRAINS

2047. DR. SONAL MANSINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of execution of Vande Bharat Trains in the country, zone-wise;
- (b) expected schedule of availability of Vande Bharat trains in all regions/zones of the country;
- (c) whether Railways is satisfied with the operation/service of the existing Vande Bharat Train services;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps Railways can/will take to safeguard the lives of passengers and Government property, in view of shocking reports of vandalization of Vande Bharat coaches?

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 UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2047 BY DR. SONAL MANSINGH ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 17.03.2023 REGARDING VANDALIZATION OF VANDE BHARAT TRAINS.

(a) and (b) The Zone-wise details of the 10 pairs of Vande Bharat Express services operating over Indian Railways (IR) network are as under :

Owning Zonal Railway	Train number and name
Northern Railway	22435/22436 Varanasi- New Delhi Express
Northern Railway	22439/22440 New Delhi – Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express
Western Railway	20901/20902 Mumbai Central - Gandhinagar Capital Express
Northern Railway	22447/22448 New Delhi - Amb Andaura Express
Southern Railway	20607/20608 MGR Chennai - Mysuru Express
South East Central Railway	20825/20826 Bilaspur - Nagpur Express
Eastern Railway	22301/22302 Howrah - New Jalpaiguri Express
East Coast Railway	20833/20834 Visakhapatnam - Secunderabad Express
Central Railway	22223/22224 CSMT - Sainagar Shirdi Express
Central Railway	22225/22226 Solapur – CSMT Express

Introduction of train services including Vande Bharat Express is an ongoing process on IR subject to operational feasibility, resource availability, traffic justification etc.

(c) and (d) The Vande Bharat services have been well received by public at large with average occupancy of several trains exceeding 120%.

(e) ‘Police’ and ‘Public Order’ are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and, as such, State Governments are responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and maintaining law and order etc. on Railways through their law enforcement agencies viz. Government Railway Police (GRP)/District Police. However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP/District Police to provide better protection and security of passenger area and passengers and for matters connected therewith.

In order to safeguard the lives of passengers and Railway Property including Vande Bharat trains due to vandalizing by miscreants, the following steps are being taken by RPF in coordination with GRP /District police:-

1. On vulnerable and identified routes/sections, trains are escorted by Railway Protection Force in addition to trains escorted by Government Railway Police of different States daily.
2. Various awareness programme including OPERATION SATHI are conducted regularly in inhabited areas adjacent to Railway track to Sensitize people towards the menace of stone pelting and its consequences.
3. The train escorting parties have been sensitized to remain more vigilant in the worst effected sections/spots, where incidents of vandalizing on premium trains are frequently reported.

4. Frequent announcements/Appeals are made through Public Address System against coercive action taken on offenders indulged in stone pelting, vandalizing acts on trains.
5. Detailed guidelines have been issued vide Security Circular No.04/2019 followed by instructions dated 30.07.2021, 10.01.2023 and 25.01.2023 regarding action to be taken to control incidents of stone pelting on moving trains including Vande Bharat trains.
6. Regular drives are conducted against anti-social elements like drunkard, petty criminals etc. in the effected section/black spots and the apprehended persons are prosecuted under Railways Act.
7. Regular co-ordination with GRP/Local Police is maintained by RPF by sharing the critical information to control the menace of pelting of stones on trains.
8. For immediate assistance passengers can make complaint on Rail Madad Portal directly or through Helpline Number 139 (integrated with National Emergency No. 112).
9. Railways are in regular touch with passengers through various social media platforms viz. Twitter, Facebook , Koo etc. to enhance security of passengers and to address their security concerns.
10. Surveillance is kept through CCTV cameras provided in 6646 coaches in trains and 864 Railway stations for enhanced security of passengers
11. State Level Security Committee of Railways (SLSCR) have been constituted for all State/Union Territories under the Chairmanship of respective Director General of Police/Commissioner of States/Union Territories for regular monitoring and review of security arrangements of the Railways.
