

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2061**  
**ANSWERED ON 17.03.2023**

**STARTING OF SUBURBAN AND VANDE BHARAT TRAINS IN ODISHA**

2061 # SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is being considered to start suburban railways in major industrial cities of Odisha;
- (b) if so, the cities of Odisha in which suburban railways can be started, the details thereof;
- (c) total number of new trains that have been started from Odisha in the last two years;
- (d) whether it is proposed to start more Vande Bharat trains for Odisha in the future;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether there is any scheme launched by IRCTC of Railways for major tourist places of Odisha and the places of Odisha that have been selected under this; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND  
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) & (b) No, Sir. At present, there is no such proposal.

(c) to (e) Indian Railways do not operate train services, including Vande Bharat services, on state-wise basis as the railway network straddles across state boundaries. However, during 2021-22 & 2022-23, 04 pairs of train services have been introduced over East Coast Railway & South Eastern Railway which primarily serve the State of Odisha. Besides, introduction of train services is an ongoing process on Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility, resource availability, traffic justification etc.

(f) & (g) Ministry of Railways have issued “Bharat Gaurav Trains” policy on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2021 with the objective to showcase India’s rich cultural heritage and magnificent historical places through theme based Bharat Gaurav tourist circuit trains. Under the said policy, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited(IRCTC) has operated Shri Jagannath Yatra on 25.01.2023 covering Puri, Konark and Bhubaneswar of Odisha State. IRCTC has operated another trip viz. Puri Gangasagar Yatra on 16.02.2023 covering Puri. Further, IRCTC has launched “Punya Kshetra Yatra” for 18.03.2023 on its tourism portal covering Puri and Konark of Odisha state.