

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1073
ANSWERED ON 28.07.2023

VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS

1073 DR. JOHN BRITTAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways has introduced/planning to introduce a system of fare discount to increase occupancy in trains;
- (b) if so, the trains, the routes and the criteria for selection;
- (c) whether the new fare strategy is aimed at increasing the occupancy of Vande Bharat Expresses;
- (d) occupancy rates of Vande Bharat Expresses so far inducted as on date;
- (e) whether the Railways is considering more Vande Bharat services in Kerala in the light of high occupancy in present services in Kerala; and
- (f) if so, the details of the services being planned and the probable dates of introduction?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1073 BY Dr. JOHN BRITTAS ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 28.07.2023 REGARDING VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS

(a) to (c): Indian Railways strives to provide affordable services to all strata of society and gave subsidy of ₹59,837 crore on passenger tickets in 2019-20. This amounts to concession of 53% on an average, to every person, travelling on Railways. This subsidy is continuing for all passengers. Further, fare rationalization is a continuous process to optimize utilization of travel accommodation in trains.

In 2019, Zonal Railways had been delegated power to introduce discounts up to a maximum of 25% of basic fare in AC chair car and Executive class over certain segments after analyzing the travel trends for all competitive modes in the region and estimating the future occupancy potential. The same provisions have been extended with some minor modifications vide instructions on 08.07.2023.

(d): During current financial year, 2023-24 (up to June 2023), the overall utilization of Vande Bharat trains has been 99.60%.

(e) & (f): As on 24th July, 2023, 50 Vande Bharat services are being operated on the Indian Railways' network. Every state of India having Broad Gauge (B.G.) electrified network, including Kerala, has been provided with Vande Bharat Service. Further, introduction of trains, including Vande Bharat, is done on the basis of operational feasibility, traffic justification, etc. and it is an ongoing process.
