

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1081
ANSWERED ON 28.07.2023

VANDE BHARAT'S OCCUPANCY RATES

1081 SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Vande Bharat trains with an occupancy rate of 0 per cent to 25 per cent, 25 per cent to 50 per cent, 50 per cent to 75 per cent, and more than 100 per cent in last three months;
- (b) whether Railways is making any loss on any route on account of Vande Bharat and if so, details thereof;
- (c) whether Government will rationalise fares on Vande trains with less than 50 per cent occupancy, details thereof;
- (d) whether Government plans to introduce new routes of Vande Bharat, if so, details thereof; and
- (e) whether Government has estimated the occupancy rate on these new routes, if so, 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 UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1081 BY SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 28.07.2023 REGARDING VANDE BHARAT'S OCCUPANCY RATES.

(a): During the current financial year i.e. 2023-24 (upto June 2023), the overall utilization of Vande Bharat trains has been 99.60%. For the above period, 18 services of Vande Bharat trains had more than 100% occupancy. There were no pair of services with occupancy less than 25%. 3 pairs of services had 51% to 75% occupancy. Only 2 pairs of services had 25% to 50% occupancy.

(b): Train specific details of loss are not maintained.

(c) Indian Railways strives to provide affordable services to all strata of society and gave subsidy of Rs. 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) & (e): 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 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.
